

Chapter 575

(Senate Bill 692)

AN ACT concerning

**Health Occupations – Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants –
Qualifications**

FOR the purpose of establishing a certain educational qualification for an applicant for a physical therapist assistant license who was educated in limited physical therapy outside of any state; altering certain educational qualifications for certain applicants for physical therapy licenses or physical therapist assistant licenses who were educated in any state; making technical and conforming changes; and generally relating to qualifications for physical therapy licenses and physical therapist assistant licenses.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – Health Occupations
 Section 13–303 and 13–304
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Health Occupations

13–303.

(a) If an applicant for a physical therapy license has been educated in physical therapy in any state, the applicant shall have:

(1) Graduated from a physical therapy program that, in the year of graduation, was [approved by]:

(i) [The American Medical Association;

(ii) The] **APPROVED BY THE** American Physical Therapy Association; or

[(iii)] **(II) [The] ACCREDITED BY THE** Commission on Accreditation [of] **IN** Physical Therapy Education; and

(2) Completed satisfactorily the clinical ~~training~~ **EDUCATION** required by the physical therapy [curriculum] **PROGRAM**.

(b) If an applicant for a physical therapy license has been educated in physical therapy outside of any state, the applicant shall have graduated from a physical therapy program that in the year of graduation had educational requirements equivalent to a degree in physical therapy from a United States program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation [of] **IN Physical Therapy Education.**

13-304.

(A) [To qualify] IF AN APPLICANT for a physical therapist assistant license HAS BEEN EDUCATED IN LIMITED PHYSICAL THERAPY IN ANY STATE, [an] THE applicant shall have:

(1) Graduated from a [curriculum for] physical therapist [assistants] **ASSISTANT PROGRAM** that is [approved]:

(I) APPROVED by the American Physical Therapy Association; **OR**

(II) ACCREDITED BY THE COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION IN PHYSICAL THERAPY EDUCATION; and

(2) Completed satisfactorily the clinical ~~training~~ **EDUCATION** required by the [curriculum for] physical therapist [assistants] **ASSISTANT PROGRAM.**

(B) IF AN APPLICANT FOR A PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT LICENSE HAS BEEN EDUCATED IN LIMITED PHYSICAL THERAPY OUTSIDE OF ANY STATE, THE APPLICANT SHALL HAVE GRADUATED FROM A PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM THAT IN THE YEAR OF GRADUATION HAS EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS EQUIVALENT TO A DEGREE IN LIMITED PHYSICAL THERAPY FROM A PROGRAM IN THE UNITED STATES ACCREDITED BY THE COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION IN PHYSICAL THERAPY EDUCATION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2020.

Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 8, 2020.