



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

**Board of Physical Therapy Examiners
4201 Patterson Avenue, Suite 304
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2025 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO: SB 47
COMMITTEE: Finance
POSITION: Support

TITLE: State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners – Revisions

BILL ANALYSIS: This bill’s purpose is to clarify the definition of “physical therapist assistant” as used in the Maryland Physical Therapy Act; alter the membership of the State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners; and require the Board to send renewal notices to licensees by electronic means, rather than first-class mail, unless the licensee requests to receive the renewal notice by first-class mail.

POSITION AND RATIONALE: The Board supports SB 47.

The purpose of this bill is to amend the definition of “Physical therapist assistant” to include the phrase “means an individual, **LICENSED BY THE STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY EXAMINERS,...**” This amendment is necessary to ensure consistency with Health Occupations Article, §13–101(f), which defines “Physical therapist” as “an individual, licensed by the State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners, who practices physical therapy ...”

Additionally, the purpose of this bill is to expand the Board of Directors by incorporating one (1) physical therapist assistant, thereby increasing the overall membership to nine (9). This increase is reflective of the evolving workforce dynamics and is intended to enhance the composition of the Board to better fulfill its mission and address the needs of its stakeholders. The inclusion of an additional physical therapist assistant on the Board acknowledges the increasing number of licensed physical therapist assistants and those holding compact privileges. This representation ensures that the perspectives and interests of this essential segment of the healthcare workforce are adequately considered.

Furthermore, transitioning to an odd-numbered Board composition reduces the likelihood of tie votes, and minimizes the potential for gridlock, thereby facilitating more decisive and efficient

governance. This structural change strengthens the Board's ability to address its expanding responsibilities effectively.

Moreover, this bill proposes amendments to the license renewal notification process, allowing electronic communication to be the primary method of notification, directing messages to the email address provided most recently by the licensee. Upon request by the licensee, renewal notifications may also be sent via first-class mail to the last known physical address.

In summary, by enacting this bill, the Board is committing to a governance structure that is more inclusive and representative, alongside improved operational efficiency. These revisions not only respond to the evolving needs of the profession but also reinforce the Board's mission to serve the public with integrity and excellence.

As an independent and self-funded entity, the Board expresses its gratitude to the committee for their consideration and respectfully requests a favorable vote for SB 47.

For more information, please contact Laurie Kendall-Ellis, Executive Director at (410) 764-4718 or laurie.kendall-ellis@maryland.gov. or Lillian Reese, Legislative Liaison, at lillian.reese@maryland.gov. or 443-794-4757.

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.