

# **APTA MD SUPPORT Senate Bill 47- State Board of Phy**

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Position: FAV

# APTA Maryland

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### Our Vision

*Transforming the diverse communities in Maryland to advance health and wellness by optimizing movement and function across the lifespan.*

January 28, 2025

The Honorable Pam Beidle, Chair  
Finance Committee  
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: Senate Bill 47– State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners – Revisions**  
**Position: SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Beidle,

The American Physical Therapy Association Maryland is writing to register our support of Senate Bill 47. The purpose of this legislation is to:

- Clarify the definition of "physical therapist assistant" as used in the Maryland Physical Therapy Act to mean an individual licensed by the State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners;
- increase the membership of the State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners from 8 to 9; and
- requiring 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.

The mission of the Board is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of all Marylanders through the promotion and oversight of the Physical Therapy Practice Act. This bill makes important and necessary changes to the structure and functioning of the Board. Electronic notification is more efficient and less expensive and adding a PTA to the board is more reflective of the workforce and enhances points of view and is more inclusive. This addition of a board member also brings the board total to an odd number to avoid gridlock.

**APTA Maryland supports legislation that strengthens and clarifies the operations and duties of the Board of Physical Therapy Examiners.**

**For the reasons noted above we ask for a favorable report on Senate Bill 47.**

Sincerely,



Roy Film, PT, DPT, MPT  
President, APTA Maryland

**SB 47 - BOPT - FIN - LOS.pdf**

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Position: FAV



## 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  
Baltimore, MD 21215-2299**

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### 2025 SESSION POSITION PAPER

**BILL NO: SB 47**  
**COMMITTEE: Finance**  
**POSITION: Support**

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**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](mailto:laurie.kendall-ellis@maryland.gov). or Lillian Reese, Legislative Liaison, at [lillian.reese@maryland.gov](mailto: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.*

**DG Written Testimony\_SB0047.docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: Senator Gile

Position: FAV

DAWN D. GILE  
Legislative District 33  
Anne Arundel County

Finance Committee

Chair

Anne Arundel County  
Senate Delegation



Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Suite 3 East  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3568 · 301-858-3568  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3568  
Dawn.Gile@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of SB0047 - State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners – Revisions**

Madame Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, and Fellow Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

SB0047 modernizes a few aspects of the State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners. In particular, it would:

1. Clarify that in order to be considered a physical therapist assistant, one must be licensed by the State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners.
2. Increase the number of physical therapist assistants on the Board from one to two, thereby increasing the total number of Board members to nine.
3. 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

These changes will enhance social and professional diversity, foster more informed and effective decision-making, and, by ensuring an odd number of Board members, eliminate the possibility of tie votes.

By providing the authority to amend the license renewal notification to electronic means as the primary notification format to the last known electronic mail address, the Board will reduce some of its administrative burden and provide a more convenient means of communication for its licensees.

Per the Fiscal Note, on balance, SB0047 would save the state a nominal amount per year (roughly \$3500) because special fund expenditures increase minimally for compensation for the additional board member and decrease minimally as a result of switching to electronic renewal notice procedures, as discussed below. Revenues are not affected.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on SB0047.