

SENATE BILL 364

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1998 Regular Session  
8r1570  
CF 8r1456

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By: **Senator Collins**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 1998

Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Physical Therapy - License and Practice Requirements**

3 FOR the purpose of altering certain English language proficiency requirements for  
4 physical therapy licensure; specifying certain educational requirements for  
5 physical therapy licensure for certain applicants; requiring the agent of the  
6 State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners to provide a certain notice  
7 concerning the time and place of a certain examination; extending the period of  
8 expiration of a certain temporary license after issuance of the license; providing  
9 for the expiration of certain temporary licenses under certain circumstances;  
10 repealing a certain authorization for the renewal of a certain temporary license;  
11 altering certain grounds for disciplinary action by the Board; providing for  
12 certain medical or psychological evaluation of certain licensees under certain  
13 circumstances; authorizing certain judicial actions to enjoin certain conduct;  
14 specifying a certain place where a certain judicial action may be held and a  
15 certain evidentiary standard and legal effect applicable to that action; and  
16 generally relating to physical therapy.

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
18 Article - Health Occupations  
19 Section 13-302, 13-303, 13-306, 13-313, and 13-316  
20 Annotated Code of Maryland  
21 (1994 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

22 BY adding to  
23 Article - Health Occupations  
24 Section 13-316.1 and 13-318.1  
25 Annotated Code of Maryland  
26 (1994 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

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

1

**Article - Health Occupations**

2 13-302.

3 (a) (1) To qualify for a physical therapy license, an applicant shall be an  
4 individual who meets the requirements of:

5 (i) This section; and

6 (ii) § 13-303 of this subtitle.

7 (2) To qualify for a physical therapist assistant license, an applicant  
8 shall be an individual who meets the requirements of:

9 (i) This section; and

10 (ii) § 13-304 of this subtitle.

11 (b) The applicant shall be of good moral character.

12 (c) Except as otherwise provided in this title, the applicant shall pass the  
13 appropriate examination given by the Board under this subtitle.

14 (d) The applicant shall meet any other qualifications or requirements that the  
15 Board establishes for license applicants.

16 (e) (1) [The] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS  
17 SUBSECTION, THE Board shall require as part of its examination or licensing  
18 procedures that an applicant for a license to practice physical therapy or limited  
19 physical therapy demonstrate [an] WRITTEN AND oral competency in the English  
20 language.

21 (2) [Graduation from a recognized English-speaking undergraduate  
22 school after at least 3 years of enrollment, or from a recognized English-speaking  
23 professional school is acceptable as proof of proficiency in the oral communication of  
24 the English language under this section] AN APPLICANT IS EXEMPT FROM ENGLISH  
25 LANGUAGE COMPETENCY TESTING UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION IF  
26 THE APPLICANT GRADUATED FROM A PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAM THAT WAS  
27 TAUGHT IN ENGLISH.

28 (3) By regulation, the Board shall develop a procedure for testing  
29 individuals who because of their speech impairment are unable to complete  
30 satisfactorily a Board approved standardized test of oral competency.

31 (4) If any disciplinary charges or action that involves a problem with the  
32 oral communication of the English language are brought against a licensee under this  
33 title, the Board shall require the licensee to take and pass a Board approved  
34 standardized test of oral competency.

1 13-303.

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

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

6 (i) The American Medical Association; [or]

7 (ii) The American Physical Therapy Association; [and] OR

8 (III) THE COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION OF PHYSICAL THERAPY  
9 EDUCATION; AND

10 (2) Completed satisfactorily the clinical training required by the physical  
11 therapy curriculum.

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

14 (1) [Graduated from a physical therapy curriculum] EARNED ALL  
15 CREDITS AT AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING that has educational  
16 requirements [comparable to those approved by:

17 (i) The American Medical Association; or

18 (ii) The American Physical Therapy Association; and] EQUIVALENT  
19 TO A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN PHYSICAL THERAPY FROM A UNITED STATES  
20 PROGRAM ACCREDITED BY THE COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION OF PHYSICAL  
21 THERAPY EDUCATION;

22 (2) EARNED A MINIMUM OF 120 CREDIT HOURS IN THE FOLLOWING  
23 MANNER:

24 (I) 50 CREDIT HOURS IN GENERAL EDUCATION TO INCLUDE AT  
25 LEAST A TWO SEMESTER COURSE IN:

26 1. HUMANITIES;

27 2. SOCIAL SCIENCE;

28 3. BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE;

29 4. PHYSICS WITH A LABORATORY;

30 5. CHEMISTRY WITH A LABORATORY;

31 6. BIOLOGY WITH A LABORATORY; AND

32 7. MATHEMATICS;

1 (II) 60 CREDIT HOURS IN A PROFESSIONAL PHYSICAL THERAPY  
2 PROGRAM TO INCLUDE AT LEAST ONE COURSE IN:

- 3 1. HUMAN ANATOMY;
- 4 2. HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY;
- 5 3. NEUROLOGY;
- 6 4. PHYSIOLOGY;
- 7 5. FUNCTIONAL ANATOMY;
- 8 6. KINESIOLOGY;
- 9 7. ORTHOPEDICS;
- 10 8. PEDIATRICS;
- 11 9. GERIATRICS;
- 12 10. PHYSICAL AGENTS;
- 13 11. MUSCULOSKELETAL ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT;
- 14 12. NEUROMUSCULAR ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT; AND
- 15 13. CARDIOPULMONARY ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT; AND

16 (III) 10 CREDIT HOURS AS ELECTIVES IN GENERAL OR  
17 PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION;

18 (3) COMPLETED AT LEAST TWO CLINICAL AFFILIATIONS TOTALING AT  
19 LEAST 800 HOURS; AND

20 [(2)] (4) Completed [in any state] a preceptorship that fulfills the  
21 requirements set by the Board.

22 13-306.

23 (a) An applicant who otherwise qualifies for a license is entitled to be  
24 examined for that license as provided in this section.

25 (b) The Board shall give examinations at least twice a year, at the times and  
26 places that the Board determines, to applicants for:

- 27 (1) A physical therapy license; and
- 28 (2) A physical therapist assistant license.

29 (c) The Board OR ITS AGENT shall[:

- 1 (1) Notify each qualified applicant of the time and place of examination;  
2 and
- 3 (2) Publish notice of the time and place of each examination given under  
4 this subtitle:
- 5 (i) At least one time in a daily newspaper of general circulation in  
6 this State; and
- 7 (ii) In any other manner that the Board determines] NOTIFY EACH  
8 QUALIFIED APPLICANT OF THE TIME AND PLACE OF THE EXAMINATION.
- 9 (d) The Board shall determine the subjects, scope, form, and passing score for  
10 examinations given under this subtitle.

11 13-313.

- 12 (a) (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, the Board shall issue a  
13 temporary license to an applicant who:
- 14 (i) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection and  
15 except for the examination requirements of this subtitle, has met the appropriate  
16 licensing requirements of this title to the satisfaction of the Board;
- 17 (ii) Submits to the Board:
- 18 1. An application on the form that the Board requires; and  
19 2. Any other document required by the Board; and
- 20 (iii) Pays to the Board the application fee set by the Board.
- 21 (2) In addition to the requirements of paragraph (1) of this subsection, to  
22 be eligible for a temporary license an applicant educated outside of any state shall  
23 have been accepted for a preceptorship.
- 24 (b) (1) A temporary license issued to a physical therapist authorizes the  
25 holder to practice physical therapy while the temporary license is effective.
- 26 (2) A temporary license issued to a physical therapist assistant  
27 authorizes the holder to practice limited physical therapy while the temporary license  
28 is effective.
- 29 (c) (1) Unless the Board revokes a temporary license, [each ] A temporary  
30 license expires [60] 90 days after [the date of the next scheduled examination]  
31 ISSUANCE.
- 32 (2) If a holder of a temporary license applies for a license by examination  
33 but does not report to take the [next scheduled] examination WHEN SCHEDULED, the  
34 temporary license expires on the date of [that] THE SCHEDULED examination.

- 1 (d) The Board may[:
- 2 (1) Extend] EXTEND a temporary license to complete a preceptorship[;
- 3 or
- 4 (2) Renew a temporary license once for an additional term under
- 5 subsection (c) of this section, if the holder:
- 6 (i) Otherwise meets the requirements of this section;
- 7 (ii) Submits a renewal application to the Board on the form that the
- 8 Board requires; and
- 9 (iii) Pays to the Board a temporary license renewal fee set by the
- 10 Board].

11 (e) The Board shall issue a license to replace the temporary license of a holder,

12 if the Board receives:

- 13 (1) The passing test scores of the holder; and
- 14 (2) Any other document that the Board requires.

15 13-316.

16 Subject to the hearing provisions of § 13-317 of this subtitle, the Board may

17 deny a license, temporary license, or restricted license to any applicant, reprimand

18 any licensee or holder of a temporary license or restricted license, place any licensee

19 or holder of a temporary license or restricted license on probation, or suspend or

20 revoke a license, temporary license, or restricted license if the applicant, licensee, or

21 holder:

- 22 (1) Fraudulently or deceptively obtains or attempts to obtain a license,
- 23 temporary license, or restricted license for the applicant, licensee, or holder or for
- 24 another;
- 25 (2) Fraudulently or deceptively uses a license, temporary license, or
- 26 restricted license;
- 27 (3) Practices physical therapy inconsistent with any written or oral order
- 28 of:
- 29 (i) A physician authorized to practice medicine in any state;
- 30 (ii) A dentist authorized to practice dentistry in any state; or
- 31 (iii) A podiatrist authorized to practice podiatry in any state;
- 32 (4) Unless specifically licensed with respect to the treatment, treats or
- 33 attempts to treat a health condition of an individual by means other than physical
- 34 therapy;

1 (5) In the case of an individual who is authorized to practice physical  
2 therapy [under this title,] is grossly negligent [in the practice of physical therapy or  
3 in the direction of an individual who is authorized to practice limited physical therapy  
4 under this title];

5 (I) IN THE PRACTICE OF PHYSICAL THERAPY;

6 (II) IN THE DIRECTION OF AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS AUTHORIZED TO  
7 PRACTICE LIMITED PHYSICAL THERAPY; OR

8 (III) IN THE SUPERVISION OF A PHYSICAL THERAPY AIDE;

9 (6) In the case of an individual who is authorized to practice limited  
10 physical therapy [under this title]:

11 (i) Practices LIMITED physical therapy other than as authorized by  
12 this title; or

13 (ii) Is grossly negligent while practicing limited physical therapy;

14 (7) Is convicted of or pleads guilty or nolo contendere to a felony or to a  
15 crime involving moral turpitude, whether or not any appeal or other proceeding is  
16 pending to have the conviction or plea set aside;

17 (8) Is convicted of a violation of a narcotic law;

18 (9) To an extent that impairs professional competence, habitually uses  
19 any:

20 (i) Drug; or

21 (ii) Alcoholic beverage;

22 (10) Pays or agrees to pay any sum to any person for bringing or referring  
23 a patient;

24 (11) Is disciplined by a licensing or disciplinary authority of any other  
25 state or country or convicted or disciplined by a court of any state or country for an act  
26 that would be grounds for disciplinary action under the Board's disciplinary statutes;

27 (12) Practices physical therapy or limited physical therapy with an  
28 unauthorized person or supervises or aids an unauthorized person in the practice of  
29 physical therapy or limited physical therapy;

30 (13) Willfully makes or files a false report or record in the practice of  
31 physical therapy or limited physical therapy;

32 (14) Willfully fails to file or record any report as required by law, willfully  
33 impedes or obstructs the filing or recording of the report, or induces another to fail to  
34 file or record the report;

- 1 (15) Submits a false statement to collect a fee;
- 2 (16) Violates any PROVISION OF THIS TITLE OR rule or regulation adopted  
3 by the Board;
- 4 (17) Uses or promotes or causes the use of any misleading, deceiving, or  
5 untruthful advertising matter, promotional literature, or testimonial;
- 6 (18) Is professionally, physically, or mentally incompetent;
- 7 (19) Promotes the sale of devices, appliances, or goods to a patient so as to  
8 exploit the patient for financial gain;
- 9 (20) Commits an act of unprofessional conduct in the practice of physical  
10 therapy;
- 11 (21) Grossly over utilizes health care services;
- 12 (22) Is convicted under insurance fraud as defined in § 27-801 of the  
13 Insurance Article; [or]
- 14 (23) Refuses, withholds from, denies, or discriminates against an  
15 individual with regard to the provision of professional services for which the licensee  
16 is licensed and qualified to render because the individual is HIV positive[.];
- 17 (24) PROVIDES PROFESSIONAL SERVICES WHILE:
- 18 (I) UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL; OR
- 19 (II) USING ANY NARCOTIC OR CONTROLLED DANGEROUS  
20 SUBSTANCE, AS DEFINED IN ARTICLE 27 OF THE CODE, OR OTHER DRUG THAT IS IN  
21 EXCESS OF THERAPEUTIC AMOUNTS OR WITHOUT VALID MEDICAL INDICATION;
- 22 (25) WILLFULLY AND WITHOUT LEGAL JUSTIFICATION, FAILS TO  
23 COOPERATE WITH A LAWFUL INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED BY THE BOARD; OR
- 24 (26) FAILS TO MEET ACCEPTED STANDARDS IN DELIVERING PHYSICAL  
25 THERAPY CARE.
- 26 13-316.1.
- 27 (A) IF IN INVESTIGATING AN ALLEGATION BROUGHT AGAINST A LICENSEE  
28 UNDER THIS TITLE, THERE IS GOOD CAUSE TO BELIEVE THAT THE PHYSICAL OR  
29 MENTAL CONDITION OF THE LICENSEE MAY ADVERSELY AFFECT THE ABILITY OF  
30 THE LICENSEE TO PRACTICE PHYSICAL THERAPY OR LIMITED PHYSICAL THERAPY,  
31 THE BOARD MAY REQUIRE THE LICENSEE TO SUBMIT TO APPROPRIATE MEDICAL OR  
32 PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINATION, TESTING, OR EVALUATION BY A HEALTH CARE  
33 PROVIDER DESIGNATED BY THE BOARD.
- 34 (B) IN RETURN FOR THE PRIVILEGE TO PRACTICE PHYSICAL THERAPY OR  
35 LIMITED PHYSICAL THERAPY, A LICENSEE IS DEEMED TO:



1 (1) CONSENT TO BE EXAMINED, TESTED, OR EVALUATED PURSUANT TO  
2 THIS SECTION; AND

3 (2) WAIVE OBJECTION TO THE RECEIPT OF AND CONSIDERATION BY  
4 THE BOARD OF THE RESULTS OF ANY EXAMINATIONS, TESTS, OR EVALUATIONS  
5 CONDUCTED BY, AND THE REPORTS AND TESTIMONY OF, THE EXAMINING HEALTH  
6 CARE PROVIDER.

7 (C) THE FAILURE OR REFUSAL OF THE LICENSEE TO SUBMIT TO AN  
8 EXAMINATION REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION MAY BE  
9 CONSIDERED AS EVIDENCE OF THE INABILITY OF THE LICENSEE TO PRACTICE  
10 COMPETENTLY, UNLESS THE BOARD FINDS THAT THE FAILURE OR REFUSAL WAS  
11 BEYOND THE CONTROL OF THE LICENSEE.

12 (D) THE BOARD SHALL PAY THE COST OF ALL EXAMINATIONS, TESTS, AND  
13 EVALUATIONS PERFORMED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

14 13-318.1.

15 (A) AN ACTION MAY BE MAINTAINED IN THE NAME OF THIS STATE OR THE  
16 BOARD TO ENJOIN:

17 (1) THE UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF PHYSICAL THERAPY; OR

18 (2) CONDUCT THAT IS GROUND FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION UNDER §  
19 13-316 OF THIS TITLE.

20 (B) AN ACTION UNDER THIS SECTION MAY BE BROUGHT BY:

21 (1) THE BOARD IN ITS OWN NAME;

22 (2) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, IN THE NAME OF THE STATE; OR

23 (3) A STATE'S ATTORNEY, IN THE NAME OF THE STATE.

24 (C) AN ACTION UNDER THIS SECTION MAY BE BROUGHT IN THE COUNTY  
25 WHERE THE DEFENDANT RESIDES OR ENGAGED IN THE ACT SOUGHT TO BE  
26 ENJOINED.

27 (D) PROOF OF ACTUAL DAMAGE OR THAT ANY PERSON WILL SUSTAIN ANY  
28 DAMAGE IF AN INJUNCTION IS NOT GRANTED IS NOT REQUIRED FOR AN ACTION  
29 UNDER THIS SECTION.

30 (E) AN ACTION UNDER THIS SECTION IS IN ADDITION TO AND NOT INSTEAD  
31 OF CRIMINAL PROSECUTION FOR THE UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF PHYSICAL  
32 THERAPY UNDER § 13-401 OF THIS TITLE OR DISCIPLINARY ACTION UNDER § 13-316  
33 OF THIS TITLE.

34 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
35 October 1, 1998.