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By: **Delegate Donoghue**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2005

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2                           **State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners - Physical Therapists and**  
3                           **Assistants - Qualifications and Scope of License**

4 FOR the purpose of repealing a provision that authorizes the State Board of Physical  
5 Therapy Examiners to waive a preceptorship requirement for certain applicants  
6 for a physical therapist license; repealing a provision that requires a licensed  
7 physical therapist assistant to practice limited physical therapy with certain  
8 on-site supervision; and generally relating to the qualifications and scope of  
9 license of physical therapists and physical therapist assistants.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
11 Article - Health Occupations  
12 Section 13-303 and 13-310  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

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

17                           **Article - Health Occupations**

18 13-303.

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

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

23 (i) The American Medical Association;

24 (ii) The American Physical Therapy Association; or

25 (iii) The Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy  
26 Education; and

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

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

8       (c)     If an applicant is currently licensed in any other state, the Board may  
9 waive the preceptorship requirement.]

10 13-310.

11       (a)     Subject to subsection (b) of this section, a physical therapist assistant  
12 license authorizes the licensee to practice limited physical therapy while the license is  
13 effective.

14       (b)     A licensed physical therapist assistant may practice limited physical  
15 therapy only under the direction of a licensed physical therapist who gives ongoing  
16 [onsite] supervision and instruction that is adequate to ensure the safety and welfare  
17 of the patient.

18       SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
19 October 1, 2005.