

SENATE BILL 485

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CF HB 325

By: **Senator Munson**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2010

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners – Licensure and Regulation**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners to
4 send license renewal notices by electronic mail; altering the maximum amount
5 of a certain penalty; altering certain definitions; and generally relating to the
6 licensure and regulation of physical therapists and physical therapist
7 assistants.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Health Occupations
10 Section 13–101, 13–311, and 13–407
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2009 Replacement Volume)

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

15 **Article – Health Occupations**

16 13–101.

17 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

18 (b) “Board” means the State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners.

19 (c) “License” means, unless the context requires otherwise, a license issued
20 by the Board to practice:

21 (1) Physical therapy; or

22 (2) Limited physical therapy.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (d) “Licensed physical therapist” means, unless the context requires
2 otherwise, a physical therapist who is licensed by the Board to practice physical
3 therapy.

4 (e) “Licensed physical therapist assistant” means, unless the context
5 requires otherwise, a physical therapist assistant who is licensed by the Board to
6 practice limited physical therapy.

7 (f) “Physical therapist” means an individual, licensed by the State Board of
8 Physical Therapy Examiners, who practices physical therapy and who has passed the
9 national physical therapy licensing examination administered or accepted by the
10 Board.

11 (g) “Physical therapist assistant” means an individual who practices limited
12 physical therapy and who has passed the national physical therapy licensing
13 examination administered or accepted by the Board.

14 (h) (1) “Practice limited physical therapy” means to [practice the health
15 specialty concerned with] **IMPLEMENT THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTIONS FOR THE**
16 **PURPOSE OF:**

17 (i) The prevention of disability in patients or clients; and

18 (ii) The physical rehabilitation of patients or clients with a
19 congenital or acquired disability.

20 (2) “Practice limited physical therapy” includes, except as provided in
21 paragraph (3) of this subsection:

22 (i) Taking and documenting measurements; and

23 (ii) Administering [treatment with] **THERAPEUTIC**
24 **INTERVENTIONS THAT INCLUDE** therapeutic exercise, therapeutic massage,
25 mechanical devices, or therapeutic agents that use the physical, chemical, or other
26 properties of air, water, electricity, sound, or radiant energy.

27 (3) “Practice limited physical therapy” does not include:

28 (i) Interpreting measurements;

29 (ii) Planning treatment programs; or

30 (iii) Using:

31 1. X rays;

1 (b) At least 1 month before the license expires, the Board shall send to the
2 licensee, by first-class mail to the last known address of the licensee, **OR BY**
3 **ELECTRONIC MAIL TO THE LAST KNOWN ELECTRONIC MAIL ADDRESS OF THE**
4 **LICENSEE**, a renewal notice that states:

5 (1) The date on which the current license expires;

6 (2) The date by which the renewal application must be received by the
7 Board for the renewal to be issued and mailed before the license expires; and

8 (3) The amount of the renewal fee.

9 (c) Before the license expires, the licensee periodically may renew it for an
10 additional 2-year term, if the licensee:

11 (1) Otherwise is entitled to be licensed;

12 (2) Pays to the Board a renewal fee set by the Board; and

13 (3) Submits to the Board:

14 (i) A renewal application on the form that the Board requires;
15 and

16 (ii) Satisfactory evidence of compliance with the other
17 qualifications set under this title for license renewal.

18 (d) The Board may adopt regulations to establish continuing education
19 requirements as a condition for the renewal of licenses under this section.

20 (e) The Board shall renew the license of each licensee who meets the
21 requirements of this section.

22 13-407.

23 (a) A person who violates any provision of this title is guilty of a
24 misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding **[\$5,000] \$10,000** or
25 imprisonment not exceeding 3 years or both.

26 (b) (1) Any person who violates § 13-401 of this subtitle is subject to a
27 civil fine of not more than \$50,000 to be assessed by the Board.

28 (2) The Board shall pay any penalty collected under this subsection
29 into the State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners Fund.

30 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
31 October 1, 2010.

