

SENATE BILL 47

J2

(PRE-FILED)

5lr1114
CF HB 3

By: **Senator Gile**

Requested: October 4, 2024

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2025

Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: January 29, 2025

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners – Revisions**

3 FOR the purpose of clarifying the definition of “physical therapist assistant” as used in the
4 Maryland Physical Therapy Act; altering the membership of the State Board of
5 Physical Therapy Examiners; requiring the Board to send renewal notices to
6 licensees by electronic means, rather than first-class mail, unless the licensee
7 requests to receive the renewal notice by first-class mail; and generally relating to
8 the State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
10 Article – Health Occupations
11 Section 13-101(a) and 13-311(a)
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
15 Article – Health Occupations
16 Section 13-101(g), 13-202(a)(1) through (3) and (c), and 13-311(b)
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



Article – Health Occupations

13–101.

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

(g) “Physical therapist assistant” means an individual **LICENSED BY THE STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY EXAMINERS** who practices limited physical therapy and who has passed the national physical therapy licensing examination administered or accepted by the Board.

13–202.

(a) (1) The Board consists of **[8] 9** members.

(2) Of the **[8] 9** Board members:

(i) Five shall be licensed physical therapists, of which a minimum of four shall be engaged primarily in the clinical practice of physical therapy in this State;

(ii) **[One] TWO** shall be **[a]** licensed physical therapist **[assistant] ASSISTANTS** practicing limited physical therapy in this State; and

(iii) Two shall be consumer members.

(3) The Governor shall appoint the licensed physical therapist members and the licensed physical therapist assistant **[member] MEMBERS**, with the advice of the Secretary, from a list of names of qualified individuals submitted to the Secretary and the Governor by the American Physical Therapy Association of Maryland. The number of names on the list shall be at least three times the number of vacancies.

(c) **[The] EACH** licensed physical therapist assistant member shall:

(1) Have 5 years’ experience in limited physical therapy; and

(2) Be engaged in the profession of limited physical therapy in this State.

13–311.

(a) (1) A license expires on the date set by the Board, unless the license is renewed for an additional term as provided in this section.

(2) A license may not be renewed for a term longer than 2 years.

(b) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, at least 1 month before the license expires, the Board shall send to the licensee, by **[first–class mail]**

1 **ELECTRONIC MEANS** to the last known **E-MAIL** address of the licensee, a renewal notice
2 that states:

3 (i) The date on which the current license expires;

4 (ii) The date by which the renewal application must be received by
5 the Board for the renewal to be issued [and mailed] before the license expires; and

6 (iii) The amount of the renewal fee.

7 (2) If requested by a licensee, the Board shall send to the licensee[, at least
8 two times within the month before a license expires,] a renewal notice by [electronic means]
9 **FIRST-CLASS MAIL** to the last known [electronic mail] address of the licensee.

10 (3) If a renewal notice sent by electronic means under paragraph [(2)] **(1)**
11 of this subsection is returned to the Board as undeliverable, the Board shall send to the
12 licensee a renewal notice by first-class mail to the last known address of the licensee.

13 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED,** That this Act shall take effect July
14 1, 2025.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.