

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 470

BY HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO THE PRACTICE OF PHYSICAL THERAPY; AMENDING SECTION 54-2212,  
2 IDAHO CODE, TO REQUIRE THAT CERTAIN FOREIGN-EDUCATED PHYSICAL  
3 THERAPISTS PROVIDE PROOF OF PASSING SCORES ON STANDARDIZED ENGLISH  
4 PROFICIENCY EXAMINATIONS AS A QUALIFICATION FOR LICENSURE AND TO MAKE  
5 TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.  
6

7 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

8 SECTION 1. That Section 54-2212, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby  
9 amended to read as follows:

10 54-2212. QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSURE OF FOREIGN-EDUCATED PHYSICAL  
11 THERAPISTS. (1) An applicant for licensure as a physical therapist or  
12 physical therapist assistant who has been educated outside of the United  
13 States shall:

14 (a) Be of good moral character; ~~and~~

15 (b) Submit a completed written application to the board on forms  
16 furnished by the board which shall require proof of graduation from a  
17 school for physical therapists or physical therapist assistants with a  
18 curriculum acceptable to the board; ~~and~~

19 (c) Have his or her education credentials evaluated by a board approved  
20 credential evaluation agency and provide satisfactory evidence that  
21 his or her education is substantially equivalent to the requirements  
22 of physical therapists or physical therapist assistants educated in  
23 accredited educational programs as determined by the board. If the  
24 board determines that a foreign-educated applicant's education is not  
25 substantially equivalent, it may require successful completion of  
26 additional coursework before proceeding with the application process;

27 (d) Provide written proof that the school of physical therapy education  
28 is recognized by its own ministry of education and that such education  
29 would qualify the person for a license to practice physical therapy  
30 without limitation in that country;

31 (e) If the applicant has actually practiced as a physical therapist  
32 or physical therapist assistant abroad, the applicant shall provide  
33 written proof of authorization to practice as a physical therapist  
34 without limitation in the country where the professional education  
35 occurred;

36 (f) Provide proof of legal authorization to reside and seek employment  
37 in the United States or its territories;

38 (g) Provide proof of passing scores on standardized English  
39 proficiency examinations as approved by the board if English is not the  
40 applicant's native language; and

41 (h) Have successfully passed ~~an~~ competency examinations authorized by  
42 the board.

1           (2)     Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, if the  
2 foreign-educated physical therapist or physical therapist assistant  
3 applicant is a graduate of a professional physical therapy education program  
4 accredited by an agency approved by the board, requirements in subsections  
5 (1) (c) and (1) (d) of this section shall be waived.