

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 2149

101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE SHIELDS.

4028H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal sections 334.530 and 334.655, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to the practice of physical therapy.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 334.530 and 334.655, RSMo, are repealed and two new sections
2 enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 334.530 and 334.655, to read as follows:

334.530. 1. A candidate for license to practice as a physical therapist shall furnish
2 evidence of such person's educational qualifications by submitting satisfactory evidence of
3 completion of a program of physical therapy education approved as reputable by the board **or**
4 **eligibility to graduate from such a program within ninety days.** A candidate who presents
5 satisfactory evidence of the person's graduation from a school of physical therapy approved as
6 reputable by the American Medical Association or, if graduated before 1936, by the American
7 Physical Therapy Association, or if graduated after 1988, the Commission on Accreditation
8 for Physical Therapy Education or its successor, is deemed to have complied with the
9 educational qualifications of this subsection.

10 2. Persons desiring to practice as physical therapists in this state shall appear before
11 the board at such time and place as the board may direct and be examined as to their fitness to
12 engage in such practice. **Applicants shall meet the qualifying standards for such**
13 **examinations, including any requirements established by any entity contracted by the**
14 **board to administer the board-approved examination.** Applications for examination shall
15 be in writing, on a form furnished by the board and shall include evidence satisfactory to the
16 board that the applicant possesses the qualifications set forth in subsection 1 of this section
17 **and meets the requirements established to qualify for examination.** Each application

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets ~~thus~~ in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18 shall contain a statement that it is made under oath or affirmation and that its representations
19 are true and correct to the best knowledge and belief of the applicant, subject to the penalties
20 of making a false affidavit or declaration.

21 3. The examination of qualified candidates for licenses to practice physical therapy
22 shall test entry-level competence as related to physical therapy theory, examination and
23 evaluation, physical therapy diagnosis, prognosis, treatment, intervention, prevention, and
24 consultation.

25 4. The examination shall embrace, in relation to the human being, the subjects of
26 anatomy, chemistry, kinesiology, pathology, physics, physiology, psychology, physical
27 therapy theory and procedures as related to medicine, surgery and psychiatry, and such
28 other subjects, including medical ethics, as the board deems useful to test the fitness of the
29 candidate to practice physical therapy.

30 5. **No person who has failed on six or more occasions to achieve a passing score**
31 **on the examination required by this section shall be eligible for licensure by examination**
32 **under this section.**

33 6. The applicant shall pass a test administered by the board on the laws and rules
34 related to the practice of physical therapy in Missouri.

334.655. 1. A candidate for licensure to practice as a physical therapist assistant shall
2 furnish evidence of the person's educational qualifications. The educational requirements for
3 licensure as a physical therapist assistant are:

4 (1) A certificate of graduation from an accredited high school or its equivalent; and

5 (2) Satisfactory evidence of completion of an associate degree program of physical
6 therapy education accredited by the commission on accreditation of physical therapy
7 education **or eligibility to graduate from such a program within ninety days.**

8 2. Persons desiring to practice as a physical therapist assistant in this state shall
9 appear before the board at such time and place as the board may direct and be examined as to
10 the person's fitness to engage in such practice. **Applicants shall meet the qualifying**
11 **standards for such examinations, including any requirements established by any entity**
12 **contracted by the board to administer the board-approved examination.** Applications
13 for examination shall be on a form furnished by the board and shall include evidence
14 satisfactory to the board that the applicant possesses the qualifications provided in subsection
15 1 of this section **and meets the requirements established to qualify for examination.** Each
16 application shall contain a statement that the statement is made under oath of affirmation and
17 that its representations are true and correct to the best knowledge and belief of the person
18 signing the statement, subject to the penalties of making a false affidavit or declaration.

19 3. The examination of qualified candidates for licensure to practice as physical
20 therapist assistants shall embrace an examination which shall cover the curriculum taught in

21 accredited associate degree programs of physical therapy assistant education. Such
22 examination shall be sufficient to test the qualification of the candidates as practitioners.

23 4. The examination shall include, as related to the human body, the subjects of
24 anatomy, kinesiology, pathology, physiology, psychology, physical therapy theory and
25 procedures as related to medicine and such other subjects, including medical ethics, as the
26 board deems useful to test the fitness of the candidate to practice as a physical therapist
27 assistant.

28 5. **No person who has failed on six or more occasions to achieve a passing score**
29 **on the examination required by this section shall be eligible for licensure by examination**
30 **under this section.**

31 6. The applicant shall pass a test administered by the board on the laws and rules
32 related to the practice as a physical therapist assistant in this state.

33 ~~[6-]~~ 7. The board shall license without examination any legally qualified person who
34 is a resident of this state and who was actively engaged in practice as a physical therapist
35 assistant on August 28, 1993. The board may license such person pursuant to this subsection
36 until ninety days after the effective date of this section.

37 ~~[7-]~~ 8. A candidate to practice as a physical therapist assistant who does not meet the
38 educational qualifications may submit to the board an application for examination if such
39 person can furnish written evidence to the board that the person has been employed in this
40 state for at least three of the last five years under the supervision of a licensed physical
41 therapist and such person possesses the knowledge and training equivalent to that obtained in
42 an accredited school. The board may license such persons pursuant to this subsection until
43 ninety days after rules developed by the state board of healing arts regarding physical
44 therapist assistant licensing become effective.

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