

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 883

90TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR ROHRBACH.

Read 1st time January 20, 2000, and 1,000 copies ordered printed.

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TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

AN ACT

To repeal sections 334.650 and 334.655, RSMo Supp. 1999, relating to physical therapist assistants, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to the same subject.

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

Section A. Sections 334.650 and 334.655, RSMo Supp. 1999, are repealed and two new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 334.650 and 334.655, to read as follows:

334.650. 1. After January 1, 1997, no person shall hold himself or herself out as being a **licensed** physical therapist assistant in this state unless the person is licensed as provided in sections 334.650 to 334.685.

2. A licensed physical therapist shall direct and supervise a physical therapist assistant at all times. The licensed physical therapist shall have the responsibility of supervising the physical therapy treatment program. No physical therapist may establish a treating office in which the physical therapist assistant is the primary care provider. No licensed physical therapist shall have under their direct supervision more than four physical therapist assistants.

334.655. 1. A candidate for licensure [to practice] as a physical therapist assistant shall be at least nineteen years of age. A candidate shall furnish evidence of the person's good moral character and of the person's educational qualifications. The educational requirements for licensure as a physical therapist assistant are:

- (1) A certificate of graduation from an accredited high school or its equivalent; and
- (2) Satisfactory evidence of completion of an associate degree program of physical therapy education accredited by the commission on accreditation of physical therapy education.

2. Persons desiring [to practice] **a license** as a physical therapist assistant in this state

EXPLANATION--Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

shall appear before the board at such time and place as the board may direct and be examined as to the person's fitness to engage in such practice. Applications for examination shall be in writing, on a form furnished by the board and shall include evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant possesses the qualifications provided in subsection 1 of this section. Each application shall contain a statement that the statement is made under oath of affirmation and that its representations are true and correct to the best knowledge and belief of the person signing the statement, subject to the penalties of making a false affidavit or declaration.

3. The examination of qualified candidates for licensure [to practice] as physical therapist assistants shall embrace a written examination and which shall cover the curriculum taught in accredited associate degree programs of physical therapy assistant education. Such examination shall be sufficient to test the qualification of the candidates as practitioners. The examination shall be given by the board at least once each year. The board shall not issue a license [to practice] as a physical therapist assistant or allow any person to sit for the Missouri state board examination for physical therapist assistants who has failed three or more times any physical therapist licensing examination administered in one or more states or territories of the United States or the District of Columbia. The examination given at any particular time shall be the same for all candidates and the same curriculum shall be included and the same questions shall be asked.

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

5. Examination grades or scores shall be preserved by the board subject to public inspection. Examination papers retained by the board shall be subject to public inspection for a period of three years and thereafter may be destroyed.

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

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

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