

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

A N A C T

RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- PHYSICAL THERAPISTS

Introduced By: Senator Matthew L. LaMountain

Date Introduced: March 07, 2023

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 5-40-7 of the General Laws in Chapter 5-40 entitled "Physical
2 Therapists" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **5-40-7. Licensing of physical therapists.**

4 (a) By Examination. The applicant is required to pass with a grade determined by the board,
5 an examination approved by the department in consultation with the board; physical therapists
6 licensed under the provisions of this chapter on August 31, 1982, shall continue to be licensed.

7 (b) Without Examination by Endorsement. A license to practice physical therapy may be
8 issued without examination to an applicant who has been licensed by examination as a physical
9 therapist under the laws of another state or territory or District of Columbia, if, in the opinion of
10 the board, the applicant meets the qualifications required of physical therapists in this state.

11 (c)(1) Graduate Practice. Every graduate of a board-approved physical therapy school who
12 has filed a physical therapy application may, upon receiving a permit from the department of health,
13 perform as a physical therapist under the supervision of a physical therapist licensed in this state.

14 (2) During this period, the applicant shall identify him or herself only as a "graduate
15 physical therapist."

16 (3) If the applicant fails to take the examination, as specified in subsection (a), within ninety
17 (90) days from effective date of graduate status, without cause, or fails to pass the examination and
18 receive a license, all privileges provided in subsections (c)(1) and (c)(2) automatically cease. Such
19 privileges shall be reinstated upon the applicant filing and registering for a second and the next

1 available scheduled examination; provided, however, that the privileges shall automatically cease
2 if the applicant fails to pass the second examination attempt. Such privileges shall be reinstated
3 upon the applicant filing and registering for a third and the next available scheduled examination;
4 provided, however, that the privileges shall automatically cease if the applicant fails to pass the
5 third examination.

6 (d)(1) Foreign-Trained Applicants. If the foreign-trained applicant has successfully met the
7 requirements of the rules and regulations, the applicant's credentials shall be accepted by the board.

8 (2) Prior to becoming licensed in this state, the foreign-trained applicant must also meet all
9 of the appropriate requirements described in this section or its equivalent as established in rules and
10 regulations.

11 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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1 This act would amend the licensing statute to allow a graduate of a board-approved
2 physical therapy school to be reinstated upon a failed examination upon the filing and registering
3 for a second or third examination.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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