

---

**Health Care & Wellness Committee**

---

**HB 2439**

**Brief Description:** Allowing persons satisfying physical therapy clinical education requirements to be exempt from licensure while under the direct supervision of a licensed physical therapist assistant.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Green, Warnick, Cody, Harris, Kelley, Clibborn, Jinkins, Roberts and Hurst.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Allows a licensed physical therapy assistant to supervise a person pursuing a course of study to become a physical therapist.

**Hearing Date:** 1/25/12

**Staff:** Jim Morishima (786-7191).

**Background:**

Physical therapy is based on movement science and includes a variety of functions and services such as:

- examining, evaluating, and testing individuals with health and movement-related conditions to determine a diagnosis, prognosis, plan of therapeutic intervention, and to assess and document the ongoing effects of intervention;
- alleviating impairments and functional limitations in movement;
- training for, and the evaluation of, the function of a patient wearing an orthosis or prosthesis;
- performing certain wound care services;
- reducing the risk of injury, impairment, functional limitation, and disability related to movement; and
- engaging in administration, consultation, education, and research.

---

*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

Generally, people need to be licensed as a physical therapist or a physical therapist assistant in order to practice physical therapy. However, a person does not need to be licensed as a physical therapist if he or she is pursuing a course of study leading to a degree as a physical therapist in an approved educational program and is satisfying supervised clinical education requirements related to his or her physical therapy education while under the direct supervision of a licensed physical therapist.

**Summary of Bill:**

A person does not need to be licensed as a physical therapist if he or she is pursuing a course of study leading to a degree as a physical therapist in an approved educational program and is satisfying supervised clinical education requirements related to his or her physical therapy education while under the direct supervision of a licensed physical therapist assistant.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on January 18, 2012.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.