
SENATE BILL 5146

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Senators McCaslin, Bauer, Sellar, McMullen, Amondson, Niemi, Madsen, Snyder, L. Smith, Johnson, Rasmussen, Gaspard, Pelz, Sutherland and Conner.

Read first time January 22, 1991. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to physical therapists; amending RCW 18.74.010,
2 18.74.012, and 18.74.023; repealing section 17, chapter 297, Laws of
3 1990; repealing section 18, chapter 297, Laws of 1990 (uncodified);
4 providing effective dates; and declaring an emergency.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.74.010 and 1988 c 185 s 1 are each amended to read
7 as follows:

8 Unless the context otherwise requires, the definitions in this
9 section apply throughout this chapter.

10 (1) "Board" means the board of physical therapy created by RCW
11 18.74.020.

12 (2) "Department" means the department of (~~licensing~~) health.

13 (3) (~~"Director" means the director of licensing.~~

14 (4)) "Physical therapy" means the treatment of any bodily or
15 mental condition of any person by the use of the physical, chemical,

1 and other properties of heat, cold, air, light, water, electricity,
2 sound, massage, and therapeutic exercise, which includes posture and
3 rehabilitation procedures; the performance of tests and measurements of
4 neuromuscular function as an aid to the diagnosis or treatment of any
5 human condition; performance of treatments on the basis of test
6 findings after consultation with and periodic review by an authorized
7 health care practitioner except as provided in RCW 18.74.012 (~~until~~
8 ~~June 30, 1991~~); supervision of selective forms of treatment by trained
9 supportive personnel; and provision of consultative services for
10 health, education, and community agencies. The use of Roentgen rays
11 and radium for diagnostic and therapeutic purposes, the use of
12 electricity for surgical purposes, including cauterization, and the use
13 of spinal manipulation or manipulative mobilization of the spine and
14 its immediate articulations, are not included under the term "physical
15 therapy" as used in this chapter.

16 ~~((5))~~ (4) "Physical therapist" means a person who practices
17 physical therapy as defined in this chapter but does not include
18 massage operators as defined in RCW 18.108.010.

19 (5) "Secretary" means the secretary of health.

20 (6) Words importing the masculine gender may be applied to females.

21 (7) "Authorized health care practitioner" means and includes
22 licensed physicians, osteopathic physicians, chiropractors,
23 naturopaths, podiatrists, and dentists: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That
24 nothing herein shall be construed as altering the scope of practice of
25 such practitioners as defined in their respective licensure laws.

26 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.74.012 and 1990 c 297 s 19 are each amended to read
27 as follows:

28 Notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 18.74.010(4), a consultation
29 and periodic review by an authorized health care practitioner is not

1 required for treatment of neuromuscular or musculoskeletal conditions:
2 PROVIDED, That a physical therapist may only provide treatment
3 utilizing orthoses that support, align, prevent, or correct any
4 structural problems intrinsic to the foot or ankle by referral or
5 consultation from an authorized health care practitioner.

6 (~~This section shall expire June 30, 1991.~~)

7 **Sec. 3.** RCW 18.74.023 and 1986 c 259 s 124 are each amended to
8 read as follows:

9 The board has the following powers and duties:

10 (1) To administer examinations to applicants for a license under
11 this chapter.

12 (2) To pass upon the qualifications of applicants for a license and
13 to certify to the (~~director~~) secretary duly qualified applicants.

14 (3) To make such rules not inconsistent with the laws of this state
15 as may be deemed necessary or proper to carry out the purposes of this
16 chapter.

17 (4) To establish and administer requirements for continuing
18 (~~professional education as may be necessary or proper to ensure the~~
19 ~~public health and safety and~~) competency, which (~~may~~) shall be a
20 prerequisite to (~~granting and~~) renewing a license under this chapter.

21 (5) To keep an official record of all its proceedings, which record
22 shall be evidence of all proceedings of the board which are set forth
23 therein.

24 (6) To adopt rules not inconsistent with the laws of this state,
25 when it deems appropriate, in response to questions put to it by
26 professional health associations, physical therapists, and consumers in
27 this state concerning the authority of physical therapists to perform
28 particular acts.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The following acts or parts of acts are each
2 repealed:

3 (1) 1990 c 297 s 17; and

4 (2) 1990 c 297 s 18 (uncodified).

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) Sections 1, 2, and 4 of this act are
6 necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health,
7 or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public
8 institutions, and shall take effect June 30, 1991.

9 (2) Section 3 of this act shall take effect January 1, 1992.