
SENATE BILL 5149

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Senators Thibaudeau, Johnson and Winsley

Read first time 01/14/1999. Referred to Committee on Health & Long Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to the practice of occupational therapy; and
2 amending RCW 18.59.020, 18.59.031, and 18.59.100.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.59.020 and 1991 c 3 s 153 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in
7 this section apply throughout this chapter.

8 (1) "Board" means the board of occupational therapy practice.

9 (2) "Occupational therapy" is the scientifically based use of
10 purposeful activity with individuals who are limited by physical injury
11 or illness, psychosocial dysfunction, developmental or learning
12 disabilities, or the aging process in order to maximize independence,
13 prevent disability, and maintain health. The practice encompasses
14 evaluation, treatment, and consultation. Specific occupational therapy
15 services include but are not limited to: Using specifically designed
16 activities and exercises to enhance neurodevelopmental, cognitive,
17 perceptual motor, sensory integrative, and psychomotor functioning;
18 administering and interpreting tests such as manual muscle and sensory
19 integration; teaching daily living skills; developing prevocational

1 skills and play and avocational capabilities; designing, fabricating,
2 or applying selected orthotic and prosthetic devices or selected
3 adaptive equipment; and adapting environments for the handicapped.
4 These services are provided individually, in groups, or through social
5 systems.

6 (3) "Occupational therapist" means a person licensed to practice
7 occupational therapy under this chapter.

8 (4) "Occupational therapy assistant" means a person licensed to
9 assist in the practice of occupational therapy under the supervision or
10 with the regular consultation of an occupational therapist.

11 (5) "Occupational therapy aide" means a person who is trained to
12 perform specific occupational therapy techniques under professional
13 supervision as defined by the board but who does not perform activities
14 that require advanced training in the sciences or practices involved in
15 the profession of occupational therapy.

16 (6) "Occupational therapy practitioner" means a person who is
17 credentialed as an occupational therapist or occupational therapy
18 assistant.

19 (7) "Person" means any individual, partnership, unincorporated
20 organization, or corporate body, except that only an individual may be
21 licensed under this chapter.

22 ((+7)) (8) "Department" means the department of health.

23 ((+8)) (9) "Secretary" means the secretary of health.

24 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.59.031 and 1987 c 150 s 44 are each amended to read
25 as follows:

26 No person may practice or represent himself or herself as an
27 occupational ((therapist)) therapy practitioner without first having a
28 valid license to do so.

29 **Sec. 3.** RCW 18.59.100 and 1986 c 259 s 101 are each amended to
30 read as follows:

31 An occupational therapist shall, after evaluating a patient and if
32 the case is a medical one, refer the case to a physician for
33 appropriate medical direction if such direction is lacking. Treatment
34 by an occupational ((therapist)) therapy practitioner of such a medical
35 case may take place only upon the referral of a physician ((or
36 pediatrist)), osteopathic physician, podiatric physician and surgeon,
37 naturopath, chiropractor, physician assistant, clinical psychologist,

1 or advanced registered nurse practitioner licensed to practice
2 ((~~medicine~~)) in this state.

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