

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 646

## 92ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES RUESTMAN, HUNTER, RICHARD, SCHAAF,  
STEVENSON (Co-sponsors), WASSON, DIXON, ICET, JACKSON, RECTOR, KING, DEEKEN, EMERY,  
HUNTER, BEAN, WILSON (130), DUSENBERG, SMITH (14), DAVIS, ENGLER AND QUINN.

Read 1<sup>st</sup> time March 11, 2003, and copies ordered printed.

STEPHEN S. DAVIS, Chief Clerk

1478L.011

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### AN ACT

To repeal sections 334.530, 334.540, 334.550, 334.560, 334.655, 334.660, 334.665, and  
334.670, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof ten new sections relating to physical  
therapists and physical therapist assistants.

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

Section A. Sections 334.530, 334.540, 334.550, 334.560, 334.655, 334.660, 334.665,  
2 and 334.670, RSMo, are repealed and ten new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as  
3 sections 334.530, 334.535, 334.540, 334.550, 334.560, 334.655, 334.660, 334.665, 334.670 and  
4 334.672, to read as follows:

334.530. 1. A candidate for license to practice as a physical therapist shall be at least  
2 twenty-one years of age. A candidate shall furnish evidence of such person's good moral  
3 character and the person's educational qualifications by submitting satisfactory evidence of  
4 completion of a program of physical therapy education approved as reputable by the board. A  
5 candidate who presents satisfactory evidence of the person's graduation from a school of physical  
6 therapy approved as reputable by the American Medical Association or, if graduated before  
7 1936, by the American Physical Therapy Association, or if graduated after 1988, the Commission  
8 on Accreditation for Physical Therapy Education or its successor, is deemed to have complied  
9 with the educational qualifications of this subsection.

10 2. Persons desiring to practice as physical therapists in this state shall appear before the  
11 board at such time and place as the board may direct and be examined as to their fitness to  
12 engage in such practice. Applications for examination shall be in writing, on a form furnished

**EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended  
to be omitted in the law. Matter in boldface type in the above law is proposed language.**

13 by the board and shall include evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant possesses the  
14 qualifications set forth in subsection 1 of this section. Each application shall contain a statement  
15 that it is made under oath or affirmation and that its representations are true and correct to the  
16 best knowledge and belief of the person signing the statement, subject to the penalties of making  
17 a false affidavit or declaration. The board shall not issue a permanent license to practice as a  
18 physical therapist or allow any person to sit for the Missouri state board examination for physical  
19 therapists who has failed three or more times any physical therapist licensing examination  
20 administered in one or more states or territories of the United States or the District of Columbia.

21 **The board may waive the provisions of this section if:**

22 **(1) The applicant is licensed and has maintained an active clinical practice for the**  
23 **previous three years in another state of the United States, the District of Columbia or**  
24 **Canada and the applicant has achieved a passing score on a licensing examination**  
25 **administered in a state or territory of the United States or District of Columbia and no**  
26 **license issued to the applicant has been disciplined or limited in any state or territory of the**  
27 **United States or the District of Columbia; or**

28 **(2) The applicant has held a provisional license pursuant to section 334.535 for**  
29 **three years and the provisional license has not been disciplined or limited.**

30  
31 **If the applicant fails the licensure examination three times, and then obtains a professional**  
32 **degree in physical therapy at a higher level than previously completed, the applicant can**  
33 **sit for the licensure examination three additional times.**

34 3. The examination of qualified candidates for licenses to practice physical therapy shall  
35 include a written examination and shall embrace the subjects taught in reputable programs of  
36 physical therapy education, sufficiently strict to test the qualifications of the candidates as  
37 practitioners. The examination shall be given by the board at least once each year and shall be  
38 administered to all candidates, and the examination given at any particular time shall be the same  
39 for all candidates and the same subjects shall be included and the same questions shall be asked.  
40 Candidates shall be required to achieve a passing score, as determined by the board, on an  
41 examination before being issued a license.

42 4. The examination shall embrace, in relation to the human being, the subjects of  
43 anatomy, chemistry, kinesiology, pathology, physics, physiology, psychology, physical therapy  
44 theory and procedures as related to medicine, surgery and psychiatry, and such other subjects,  
45 including medical ethics, as the board deems useful to test the fitness of the candidate to practice  
46 physical therapy.

47 5. Examination grades or scores shall be preserved by the board subject to public  
48 inspection. Examination papers retained by the board shall be subject to public inspection for

49 a period of three years, after which they may be destroyed.

**334.535. 1. The board may issue a provisional license as a physical therapist for any applicant who:**

**(1) Has failed three or more times to achieve a passing score on a physical therapist licensing examination administered in one or more states or territories of the United States; and**

**(2) Has achieved a passing score on a physical therapist licensing examination administered in one or more states or territories of the United States; and**

**(3) Otherwise meets all requirements for permanent licensure as defined in sections 334.500 to 334.620; and**

**(4) Submits an application to the board on a form prescribed by the board.**

**2. A provisional licensed physical therapist shall, at all times, practice physical therapy under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist licensed in this state. The supervising licensed physical therapist shall be available to the provisional licensed physical therapist at all times either in person or via telecommunications. The board shall determine by rule the scope of practice of the provisional licensed physical therapist and the amount of time and type of supervision of the provisional licensed physical therapist by the supervising licensed physical therapist.**

**3. A provisional license shall be renewed annually by submitting an application to the board on a form prescribed by the board.**

**4. If a supervising licensed physical therapist is unable to continue supervising a provisional licensed physical therapist, the provisional licensed physical therapist shall cease practicing immediately and the provisional license shall terminate. The board shall adopt by rule procedures for reinstatement of the provisional license if the person obtains a new supervising licensed physical therapist.**

**334.540. 1. The board shall issue a license to any physical therapist who is licensed in another jurisdiction and who has had no violations, suspensions or revocations of a license to practice physical therapy in any jurisdiction, provided that, such person is licensed in a jurisdiction whose requirements are substantially equal to, or greater than, the requirements for licensure of physical therapists in Missouri at the time the applicant applies for licensure.**

**2. Every applicant for a license pursuant to this section, upon making application and showing the necessary qualifications as provided in subsection 1 of this section, shall be required to pay the same fee as the fee required to be paid by applicants who apply to take the examination before the board. Within the limits provided in this section, the board may negotiate reciprocal compacts with licensing boards of other states for the admission of licensed practitioners from Missouri in other states.**

12           3. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections 1 and 2 of this section, the board shall  
13 not issue a license to any applicant who has failed three or more times any physical therapist  
14 licensing examination administered in one or more states or territories of the United States or the  
15 District of Columbia. **The board may waive the provisions of this section if:**

16           **(1) The applicant is licensed and has maintained an active clinical practice for the**  
17 **previous three years in another state of the United States, the District of Columbia or**  
18 **Canada and the applicant has achieved a passing score on a licensing examination**  
19 **administered in a state or territory of the United States or District of Columbia and no**  
20 **license issued to the applicant has been disciplined or limited in any state or territory of the**  
21 **United States or the District of Columbia; or**

22           **(2) The applicant has held a provisional license pursuant to section 334.535 for**  
23 **three years and the provisional license has not been disciplined or limited.**

24  
25 **If the applicant fails the licensure examination three times, and then obtains a professional**  
26 **degree in physical therapy at a higher level than previously completed, the applicant can**  
27 **sit for the licensure examination three additional times.**

          334.550. 1. Upon the applicant paying a temporary license fee, the board shall issue  
2 without examination [a] **an initial** temporary license to practice physical therapy for a period of  
3 time not to extend beyond the time when the results of the [next] examination are announced  
4 to any person who meets the qualifications of subsection 1 of section 334.530, **not to exceed six**  
5 **months**; provided that, the applicant has not previously been examined in one or more states or  
6 territories of the United States or the District of Columbia. The temporary license may be  
7 renewed at the discretion of the board and payment of the temporary license fee.

8           2. The board may [once] renew a temporary license [issued] **once** pursuant to this section  
9 if the licensee fails to sit for the next scheduled examination; provided that, the applicant shows  
10 good and exceptional cause for failing to sit for the examination. The applicant shall state the  
11 good and exceptional cause in writing and shall verify such statement by oath. The board shall  
12 define good and exceptional cause by rules and regulations. **The duration of the temporary**  
13 **licensure shall be determined by the board.**

14           3. **The board may renew a temporary license not to exceed six months following the**  
15 **first failure of the examination by an applicant if such person submits an amended**  
16 **agreement-to-supervise form which is signed by the applicant's supervising licensed**  
17 **physical therapist. Such renewed temporary licensee shall only engage in the practice of**  
18 **physical therapy under the on-site supervision of a licensed physical therapist. The board**  
19 **shall define by rule the scope of such supervision which shall require stricter supervision**  
20 **than that required for an initial temporary license. The board shall not renew a temporary**

21 license following the second failure of the examination by the applicant.

22       **4. The board may issue an initial temporary license pursuant to this section for a**  
23 **first-time applicant for licensure by examination without presentation of a diploma**  
24 **indicating graduation or final semester transcripts; provided that, all other documentation**  
25 **and fees necessary for an initial temporary license have been submitted to and approved**  
26 **by the board.**

27       **5. The board may issue [a] an initial** temporary license to any first-time applicant for  
28 licensure by examination if such person submits **a diploma indicating graduation and final**  
29 **semester transcripts acceptable to the board, and** an agreement- to-supervise form which is  
30 signed by the applicant's supervising physical therapist. Such **initial** temporary licensee may  
31 only engage in the practice of physical therapy under the supervision of a licensed physical  
32 therapist. The board shall define the scope of such supervision by rules and regulations.

334.560. 1. The board shall charge each person who applies for examination for a  
2 license to practice as a physical therapist an examination fee.

3       **2. Should the examination results** prove unsatisfactory and the board refuse to issue a  
4 license **as a physical therapist** thereon, the applicant failing to pass the examination may  
5 reapply and return to any meeting and be examined upon payment of a reexamination fee[; but  
6 no temporary license may be issued to such persons]. **A renewed temporary license may be**  
7 **issued to such persons pursuant to subsection 3 of section 334.550.**

8       **3. Upon failure for the second time of an applicant for licensure as a physical**  
9 **therapist by examination, the board shall require the applicant to pursue and successfully**  
10 **complete a program of remediation before sitting for the examination for a third time.**  
11 **Such program of remediation shall:**

12       **(1) Be submitted on forms and in a manner approved by the board;**

13       **(2) Be provided by a licensed physical therapist approved by the board prior to the**  
14 **initiation of the program; and**

15       **(3) Have the results of the program documented by the licensed physical therapist,**  
16 **and reviewed and approved by the board following completion of the program.**

17       **4. Upon failure for the third time of an applicant for licensure as a physical**  
18 **therapist by examination, the board shall not permit such applicant to reapply for the**  
19 **examination. Such persons shall not receive a license to practice as a physical therapist in**  
20 **this state, except as otherwise provided in sections 334.530 to 334.540.**

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

5 (1) A certificate of graduation from an accredited high school or its equivalent; and

6 (2) Satisfactory evidence of completion of an associate degree program of physical  
7 therapy education accredited by the commission on accreditation of physical therapy education.

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

16 3. The examination of qualified candidates for licensure to practice as physical therapist  
17 assistants shall embrace a written examination and which shall cover the curriculum taught in  
18 accredited associate degree programs of physical therapy assistant education. Such examination  
19 shall be sufficient to test the qualification of the candidates as practitioners. The examination  
20 shall be given by the board at least once each year. The board shall not issue a license to practice  
21 as a physical therapist assistant or allow any person to sit for the Missouri state board  
22 examination for physical therapist assistants who has failed three or more times any physical  
23 therapist licensing examination administered in one or more states or territories of the United  
24 States or the District of Columbia. **The board may waive the provisions of this section if:**

25 **(1) The applicant is licensed and has maintained an active clinical practice for the**  
26 **previous three years in another state of the United States, the District of Columbia or**  
27 **Canada and the applicant has achieved a passing score on a licensing examination**  
28 **administered in a state or territory of the United States or District of Columbia and no**  
29 **license issued to the applicant has been disciplined or limited in any state or territory of the**  
30 **United States or the District of Columbia; or**

31 **(2) The applicant has held a provisional license pursuant to section 334.535 for**  
32 **three years and the provisional license has not been disciplined or limited.**

33

34 **If the applicant fails the licensure examination three times, and then obtains a professional**  
35 **degree in physical therapy at a higher level than previously completed, the applicant can**  
36 **sit for the licensure examination three additional times.** The examination given at any  
37 particular time shall be the same for all candidates and the same curriculum shall be included and  
38 the same questions shall be asked.

39 4. The examination shall include, as related to the human body, the subjects of anatomy,  
40 kinesiology, pathology, physiology, psychology, physical therapy theory and procedures as

41 related to medicine and such other subjects, including medical ethics, as the board deems useful  
42 to test the fitness of the candidate to practice as a physical therapist assistant.

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

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

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

334.660. The board shall license without examination legally qualified persons who hold  
2 certificates of licensure, registration or certification in any state or territory of the United States  
3 or the District of Columbia, who have had no violations, suspensions or revocations of such  
4 license, registration or certification, if such persons have passed a written examination to practice  
5 as a physical therapist assistant that was substantially equal to the examination requirements of  
6 this state and in all other aspects, including education, the requirements for such certificates of  
7 licensure, registration or certification were, at the date of issuance, substantially equal to the  
8 requirements for licensure in this state. The board shall not issue a license to any applicant who  
9 has failed three or more times any physical therapist assistant licensing examination administered  
10 in one or more states or territories of the United States or the District of Columbia. **The board**  
11 **may waive the provisions of this section if:**

12 **(1) The applicant is licensed and has maintained an active clinical practice for the**  
13 **previous three years in another state of the United States, the District of Columbia or**  
14 **Canada and the applicant has achieved a passing score on a licensing examination**  
15 **administered in a state or territory of the United States or District of Columbia and no**  
16 **license issued to the applicant has been disciplined or limited in any state or territory of the**  
17 **United States or the District of Columbia; or**

18 **(2) The applicant has held a provisional license pursuant to section 334.535 for**  
19 **three years and the provisional license has not been disciplined or limited.**

20 **If the applicant fails the licensure examination three times, and then obtains a professional**  
21 **degree in physical therapy at a higher level than previously completed, the applicant can**  
22 **sit for the licensure examination three additional times.** Every applicant for a license  
23 pursuant to this section, upon making application and providing documentation of the necessary  
24 qualifications as provided in this section, shall pay the same fee required of applicants to take  
25 the examination before the board. Within the limits of this section, the board may negotiate  
26 reciprocal contracts with licensing boards of other states for the admission of licensed  
27 practitioners from Missouri in other states.

334.665. **1.** Upon the applicant paying a temporary fee, the board shall issue, without  
2 examination, [a] **an initial** temporary license to practice as a physical therapist assistant for a  
3 period of time not to exceed beyond the time when the results of the next examination are  
4 announced to any person who meets the qualifications of section 334.655, **not to exceed six**  
5 **months; provided that, the applicant has not previously been examined in one or more**  
6 **states or territories of the United States or the District of Columbia.** The temporary license  
7 may be renewed at the discretion of the board and upon payment of a temporary license fee.

8 **2.** The board may issue an initial temporary license pursuant to this section for a  
9 **first-time applicant for licensure by examination without presentation of a diploma**  
10 **indicating graduation or final semester transcripts; provided that, all other documentation**  
11 **and fees necessary for an initial temporary license have been submitted to and approved**  
12 **by the board.**

13 **3.** The board may issue an initial temporary license to any first-time applicant for  
14 licensure by examination if such person submits a diploma indicating graduation and final  
15 semester transcripts acceptable to the board, and an agreement-to-supervise form which  
16 is signed by the applicant's supervising physical therapist. Such initial temporary licensee  
17 may only engage in the practice of physical therapy under the supervision of a licensed  
18 physical therapist. The board shall define the scope of such supervision by rules and  
19 regulations.

20 **4.** The board may renew a temporary license once pursuant to this section if the  
21 licensee fails to sit for the next scheduled examination; provided that, the applicant shows  
22 good and exceptional cause for failing to sit for the examination. The applicant shall state  
23 the good and exceptional cause in writing and shall verify such statement by oath. The  
24 board shall define good and exceptional cause by rules and regulations. The duration of  
25 the temporary licensure shall be determined by the board.

26 **5.** The board may renew a temporary license not to exceed six months following the  
27 first failure of the examination by an applicant if such person submits an amended  
28 agreement-to-supervise form which is signed by the applicant's supervising licensed



29 **physical therapist. Such renewed temporary licensee shall only engage in the practice of**  
30 **physical therapy under the on-site supervision of a licensed physical therapist. The board**  
31 **shall define by rule the scope of such supervision which shall require stricter supervision**  
32 **than that required for an initial temporary license. The board shall not renew a temporary**  
33 **license following the second failure of the examination by the applicant.**

334.670. 1. The board shall charge a person, who applies for examination for a license  
2 to practice as a physical therapist assistant, an examination fee. If the person does not score a  
3 passing grade on the examination, the board may refuse to issue a license. Any applicant who  
4 fails to pass the examination may reapply and be reexamined upon payment of a reexamination  
5 fee. [No temporary license may be issued to any person who has previously failed the  
6 examination in Missouri or any other state or jurisdiction.] **A renewed temporary license may**  
7 **be issued to such persons pursuant to the provisions of section 334.655.**

8 **2. Upon failure for the second time of an applicant for licensure as a physical**  
9 **therapist assistant by examination, the board shall require the applicant to pursue and**  
10 **successfully complete a program of remediation before sitting for the examination for a**  
11 **third time. Such program of remediation shall:**

12 **(1) Be submitted on forms and in a manner approved by the board;**

13 **(2) Be provided by a licensed physical therapist approved by the board prior to the**  
14 **initiation of the program; and**

15 **(3) Have the results of the program documented by the licensed physical therapist,**  
16 **and reviewed and approved by the board following completion of the program.**

17 **3. Upon failure for the third time of an applicant for licensure as a physical**  
18 **therapist assistant by examination, the board shall not permit such applicant to reapply**  
19 **for the examination. Such persons shall not receive a license to practice as a physical**  
20 **therapist assistant in this state, except as otherwise provided in section 334.655 or 334.660.**

334.672. 1. The board may issue a provisional license as a physical therapist  
2 assistant for any applicant who:

3 **(1) Has failed three or more times to achieve a passing score on a physical therapist**  
4 **assistant licensing examination administered in one or more states or territories of the**  
5 **United States; and**

6 **(2) Has achieved a passing score on a physical therapist assistant licensing**  
7 **examination administered in one or more states or territories of the United States; and**

8 **(3) Otherwise meets all requirements for permanent licensure as defined in sections**  
9 **334.500 to 334.620; and**

10 **(4) Submits an application to the board on a form prescribed by the board.**

11 **2. A provisional licensed physical therapist assistant shall, at all times, practice**

12 **physical therapy under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist licensed in this**  
13 **state. The supervising licensed physical therapist shall be available to the provisional**  
14 **licensed physical therapist assistant at all times either in person or via telecommunications.**  
15 **The board shall determine by rule the scope of practice of the provisional licensed physical**  
16 **therapist assistant and the amount of time and type of supervision of the provisional**  
17 **licensed physical therapist assistant by the supervising licensed physical therapist.**

18 **3. A provisional license shall be renewed annually by submitting an application to**  
19 **the board on a form prescribed by the board.**

20 **4. If a supervising licensed physical therapist is unable to continue supervising a**  
21 **provisional licensed physical therapist assistant, the provisional licensed physical therapist**  
22 **assistant shall cease practicing immediately and the provisional license shall terminate.**  
23 **The board shall adopt by rule procedures for reinstatement of the provisional license if the**  
24 **person obtains a new supervising licensed physical therapist.**