

HCS HB 2068 -- PHYSICAL THERAPISTS AND PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANTS

SPONSOR: Wasson (Kuessner)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Special Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 11 to 0.

This substitute changes the laws regarding the licensure of physical therapists and physical therapy assistants. In its main provisions, the substitute:

(1) Specifies the services which may be provided by a physical therapist without a prescription or the direction of an approved health care provider;

(2) Creates an inactive license for physical therapists and physical therapy assistants, establishes certain criteria to be followed when applying for an inactive status and for reinstatement of an active status, and adds additional restrictions on the issuance of temporary licenses;

(3) Removes the provision which allows applicants to take the licensing examination only three times;

(4) Allows physical therapists and physical therapy assistants licensed in other states to provide gratuitous services for a period not to exceed 14 days in any one calendar year;

(5) Authorizes the State Board of Registration for the Healing Arts to destroy all documentation regarding meritless actions brought by individuals incarcerated under the Department of Corrections against licensees three months after the final disposition of the case;

(6) Authorizes the board to issue probationary licenses as an alternative to a refusal to issue, suspend, or revoke a license;

(7) Authorizes the board to suspend or restrict licenses of those who it considers to be a clear and present danger to the public;

(8) Specifies that physical therapists retain ultimate authority and responsibility of any physical therapy treatment being provided by the physical therapy assistant under their supervision; and

(9) Requires all physical therapist assistant applicants to pass a test administered by the board on the laws and rules relating

to the practice of physical therapist assistants.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2009, FY 2010, and FY 2011.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will increase the awareness and compliance of physical therapists and physical therapy assistants of the laws governing their profession.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Wasson; and Melinda Christiansen, Advisory Commission for Physical Therapists.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.