

HB 2068 -- Physical Therapists and Physical Therapy Assistants

Sponsor: Wasson

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

- (1) Defines "consultation by means of telecommunication" and "physical therapy evaluation or treatment via telecommunication";
- (2) Specifies the services which may be provided by a physical therapist without a prescription or the direction of an approved health care provider;
- (3) 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;
- (4) Removes the provision which allows applicants to take the licensing examination only three times;
- (5) 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;
- (6) 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;
- (7) Authorizes the board to issue probationary licenses as an alternative to a refusal to issue, suspend, or revoke a license;
- (8) Authorizes the board to file complaints with the Administrative Hearing Commission;
- (9) Requires the board to publish at least quarterly a list of persons whose licenses have been revoked, suspended, surrendered, restricted, denied, or withheld except those who voluntarily enter treatment programs;
- (10) Authorizes the board to suspend or restrict licenses of those who it considers to be a clear and present danger to the public;
- (11) 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

(12) 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.