
HOUSE BILL 1230

State of Washington 63rd Legislature 2013 Regular Session

By Representatives Green, Warnick, Jinkins, Harris, Cody, Moeller, Clibborn, Morrell, and Tharinger

Read first time 01/21/13. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to persons who are pursuing a course of study
2 leading to a degree as a physical therapist or physical therapist
3 assistant; and amending RCW 18.74.150 and 18.74.180.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.74.150 and 2007 c 98 s 13 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1) It is unlawful for any person to practice or in any manner hold
8 himself or herself out to practice physical therapy or designate
9 himself or herself as a physical therapist or physical therapist
10 assistant, unless he or she is licensed in accordance with this
11 chapter.

12 (2) This chapter does not restrict persons licensed under any other
13 law of this state from engaging in the profession or practice for which
14 they are licensed, if they are not representing themselves to be
15 physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, or providers of
16 physical therapy.

17 (3) The following persons are exempt from licensure as physical
18 therapists under this chapter when engaged in the following activities:

1 (a) A person who is pursuing a course of study leading to a degree
2 as a physical therapist in an approved professional education program
3 and is satisfying supervised clinical education requirements related to
4 his or her physical therapy education while under direct supervision of
5 a licensed physical therapist;

6 (b) A physical therapist while practicing in the United States
7 armed services, United States public health service, or veterans
8 administration as based on requirements under federal regulations for
9 state licensure of health care providers; and

10 (c) A physical therapist licensed in another United States
11 jurisdiction, or a foreign-educated physical therapist credentialed in
12 another country, performing physical therapy as part of teaching or
13 participating in an educational seminar of no more than sixty days in
14 a calendar year.

15 (4) The following persons are exempt from licensure as physical
16 therapist assistants under this chapter when engaged in the following
17 activities:

18 (a) A person who is pursuing a course of study leading to a degree
19 as a physical therapist assistant in an approved professional education
20 program and is satisfying supervised clinical education requirements
21 related to his or her physical therapist assistant education while
22 under direct supervision of a licensed physical therapist or licensed
23 physical therapist assistant;

24 (b) A physical therapist assistant while practicing in the United
25 States armed services, United States public health service, or veterans
26 administration as based on requirements under federal regulations for
27 state licensure of health care providers; and

28 (c) A physical therapist assistant licensed in another United
29 States jurisdiction, or a foreign-educated physical therapist assistant
30 credentialed in another country, or a physical therapist assistant who
31 is teaching or participating in an educational seminar of no more than
32 sixty days in a calendar year.

33 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.74.180 and 2007 c 98 s 16 are each amended to read
34 as follows:

35 A physical therapist is professionally and legally responsible for
36 patient care given by assistive personnel under his or her supervision.

1 If a physical therapist fails to adequately supervise patient care
2 given by assistive personnel, the board may take disciplinary action
3 against the physical therapist.

4 (1) Regardless of the setting in which physical therapy services
5 are provided, only the licensed physical therapist may perform the
6 following responsibilities:

7 (a) Interpretation of referrals;

8 (b) Initial examination, problem identification, and diagnosis for
9 physical therapy;

10 (c) Development or modification of a plan of care that is based on
11 the initial examination and includes the goals for physical therapy
12 intervention;

13 (d) Determination of which tasks require the expertise and
14 decision-making capacity of the physical therapist and must be
15 personally rendered by the physical therapist, and which tasks may be
16 delegated;

17 (e) Assurance of the qualifications of all assistive personnel to
18 perform assigned tasks through written documentation of their education
19 or training that is maintained and available at all times;

20 (f) Delegation and instruction of the services to be rendered by
21 the physical therapist, physical therapist assistant, or physical
22 therapy aide including, but not limited to, specific tasks or
23 procedures, precautions, special problems, and contraindicated
24 procedures;

25 (g) Timely review of documentation, reexamination of the patient,
26 and revision of the plan of care when indicated;

27 (h) Establishment of a discharge plan.

28 (2) Supervision requires that the patient reevaluation is
29 performed:

30 (a) Every fifth visit, or if treatment is performed more than five
31 times per week, reevaluation must be performed at least once a week;

32 (b) When there is any change in the patient's condition not
33 consistent with planned progress or treatment goals.

34 (3) Supervision of assistive personnel means:

35 (a) Physical therapist assistants may function under direct or
36 indirect supervision;

37 (b) Physical therapy aides must function under direct supervision;

1 (c) The physical therapist may supervise a total of two assistive
2 personnel at any one time. The limitation in this subsection (3)(c)
3 does not apply to persons who are pursuing a course of study leading to
4 a degree as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant.

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