



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Commerce, Community,
and Economic Development

BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY AND
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

P.O. Box 110806
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0806
Main: 907.465.2580
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April 4, 2024

The Honorable Bryce Edgmon
Chair, House Finance Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Room 410
Juneau, Alaska 99801

The Honorable Neal Foster
Chair, House Finance Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Room 511
Juneau, Alaska 99801

The Honorable DeLena Johnson
Chair, House Finance Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Room 505
Juneau, Alaska

RE: Reiterated Letter of Support - HB 137/SB 74 - Physical Therapy Licensure Compact

Dear Chairs Edgmon, Foster, Johnson, and Committee Members,

The Alaska Board of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy would like to reiterate our unanimous support for SB 74 and HB 137; both acts relating to an interstate physical therapy licensure compact. Its success in moving through legislation to law this session is paramount in meeting the challenges of ever-growing shortages of physical therapists and physical therapist assistants throughout all areas of Alaska.

Over thirty states have already become PT Compact States. In addition, all but five remaining states have either introduced or have enacted legislation to be able to issue compact privileges.

The Board's decision of support is based on evidence including presentations and supportive testimony from key stakeholders as noted in our original letter of support dated September 7, 2023.

Benefits of the PT Compact Licensure includes:

- Improving interstate access to physical therapy care for all Alaskans.

- Reduces administrative burdens for full licensure applicants expediting healthcare providers into the workforce.
- Improves vetting of all licensees applying for compact privileges or permanent licensure through stringent background checks improving patient and public safety.
- Improves recruiting and retention of competent healthcare providers to fill critical shortages currently existing throughout Alaska.

Please feel free to reach out to the licensing board if you have any questions regarding the physical therapy compact or licensing.

Thank you for your continued support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Alaska Board of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy



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Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL
LICENSING

Juneau Office

P.O. Box 110806
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September 7, 2023

House Finance Committee
Alaska State House of Representatives
Juneau, Alaska 99801
House.Finance@akleg.gov

Re: SB 74/HB 137 – Physical Therapy Compact Licensure Letter of Support

Dear Chairs Edgmon, Foster, Johnson and Committee Members,

The Alaska State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board unanimously supports SB 74 and HB 137; both acts relating to an interstate physical therapy compact.

The Board's decision is based on evidence including presentations and supportive testimony from key stakeholders including Alaska licensed physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, the Alaska Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association, the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy, public testimony, the testimony from other state physical therapy and occupational therapy boards, and representatives from the Physical Therapy Compact Commission.

Over thirty states have already become PT Compact States. In addition, all but five remaining states have either introduced or have enacted legislation to be able to issue compact privileges.


Benefits of PT Compact Licensure includes:

- Improving interstate access to physical therapy care for all Alaskans
- Reducing administrative burdens of full licensure expediting licensure for healthcare providers
- Vetting of all licensees applying for compact privileges or permanent licensure through stringent background checks
- Recruiting and retaining competent healthcare providers to fill critical shortages

The board prefers the Senate SB 74 committee substitute version as it does not require fingerprints for existing Alaska licensees upon renewal or application for compact privileges which will reduce the overall cost by up to half of implementation of the bill. The board would also request the committee consider an extension of the effective date of the bill to July 1, 2025, to allow adequate time for the necessary board regulations project and Division changes to implement this complex bill.

Thank you for your support for this legislation. Please feel free to reach out to the licensing board if you have any questions regarding the physical therapy compact or licensing.

Most Sincerely,

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Tina E McLean, PT, DPT, ATC-L, CMTPT, GTS (Chair)
State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board