

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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North to the Future

Senator Cathy Giessel
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CS for Senate Bill 47(L&C) **Sectional Analysis** (vsn S, 2-12-2020) **Physical/Occupational Therapy Bd/Practice**

Section 1 AS 08.84.010 Creation and membership of the board. This section removes the seat for a physician and balances out the board with 3 physical therapists and 3 occupational therapists along with one public member, to make up the 7-member board.

It also changes the term “physical therapy assistant” to “physical therapist assistant” in this section and throughout the entire statute. This is to conform to title used nationally in the industry.

Section 2 AS 08.84.030 Qualifications for Licensing. This section allows the board to have broader authority over what entities will have accreditation oversight over physical therapy & occupational therapy education programs. Some of the accrediting entities listed in statute are now either renamed or no longer exist, making that statute obsolete. The bill also changes the statute in the same way for occupational therapists.

Section 2 also removes language from statute relating to additional supervised field work that occupational therapists must complete as these requirements are covered by the accrediting bodies.

Section 3 AS 08.84.032 Foreign-Educated Applicants. Changes the section headline from “trained” to “educated.” Puppies are trained, students are educated. New language is added that requires foreign-educated physical therapist students to have attended a “substantially” equivalent educational program that is accredited by a U.S. accreditation entity that has been approved by the board. Outdated and obsolete language is removed that can be found on page 4, lines 3 -9 of this bill.

Added to (3) of this section is language that would require that a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant pass a test demonstrating competency of the English language if their program was taught in a foreign language.

(4) requires that a foreign educated applicant is a legal alien or a U.S citizen

(7) requires them to pay the required fee and meet any other qualifications for licensure set by the board under 08.84.010(b)

All the above changes in Section 3 are replicated for occupational therapists or occupational therapy assistants on page 4, lines 27-31 and over to page 5, lines 1-22.

Section 4 AS 08.84.060 **Licensure by acceptance of credentials.** Makes conforming terminology changes

Section 5 AS 08.84.065(c) Makes conforming terminology changes

Section 6 AS 08.84.075(b) Makes conforming terminology changes

Section 7 AS 08.84.075(c) Changes language that would now require a limited permit is valid for 120 *consecutive* days

Section 8 AS 08.84.075(d) Allows only one limited permit per 12-month period.

Section 9 AS 08.84.090 Updates licensure terminology

Section 10 AS 08.84.120(a) Adds disciplinary action as a possibility to actions a board might consider for an infraction of their licensure and updates terminology in item (7) and states in (9) that failure to comply with the law or regulations or order of the board might result in disciplinary action or suspension of a license.

Section 11 AS 08.04.130(a) Adds updated credentialing and terminology

Section 12 AS 08.84.130(b) Updates terminology

Section 13 AS 08.84.190 Adds a new paragraph defining the updated term “physical therapist assistant”

Section 14 AS 11.41.470(1) Updates definitions in criminal law/sexual assault statute

Section 15 AS 47.17.290(14) Updates terminology under definitions in child protection statute

Section 16 AS 08.84.190(7) Is repealed, which is the definition using outdated term of physical therapy; according to Leg. Legal, when the actual “term” used for the definition is being changed, the entire citing must be repealed. The new definition is set out on page 8, Section 13, lines 11-14.

Section 17 Sets out the applicability clauses for licensure for sections 2 and 3 of this Act and also for sections 7 and 8

Section 18 Transition language for the board vacancy and appointments for the PT/OT board, and states that the changes do not apply to current licensees until it is time for their licensure renewal and then all changes to the law will apply.