

PHYSICAL THERAPIST PRACTICE ACT AMENDMENTS

2019 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: James A. Dunnigan

Senate Sponsor: Curtis S. Bramble

LONG TITLE

Committee Note:

The Business and Labor Interim Committee recommended this bill.

General Description:

This bill amends the Physical Therapy Practice Act.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

▶ permits an individual in the final term of a program of study in physical therapy to take a licensing exam before graduation.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

58-24b-302, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 318

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **58-24b-302** is amended to read:

58-24b-302. Licensure.

(1) An applicant for a license as a physical therapist shall:



- 28 (a) be of good moral character;
- 29 (b) complete the application process, including payment of fees;
- 30 (c) submit proof of graduation from a professional physical therapist education
- 31 program that is accredited by a recognized accreditation agency;
- 32 (d) ~~[after complying with Subsection (1)(c),]~~ pass a licensing examination[;];
- 33 (i) after complying with Subsection (1)(c); or
- 34 (ii) if the applicant is in the final term of a professional physical therapist education
- 35 program that is accredited by a recognized accreditation agency;
- 36 (e) be able to read, write, speak, understand, and be understood in the English language
- 37 and demonstrate proficiency to the satisfaction of the board if requested by the board;
- 38 (f) if the applicant is applying to participate in the Physical Therapy Licensure
- 39 Compact under Chapter 24c, Physical Therapy Licensure Compact, consent to a criminal
- 40 background check in accordance with Section 58-24b-302.1 and any requirements established
- 41 by rule made in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act;
- 42 and
- 43 (g) meet any other requirements established by the division, by rule made in
- 44 accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act.
- 45 (2) An applicant for a license as a physical therapist assistant shall:
- 46 (a) be of good moral character;
- 47 (b) complete the application process, including payment of fees set by the division, in
- 48 accordance with Section 63J-1-504, to recover the costs of administering the licensing
- 49 requirements relating to physical therapist assistants;
- 50 (c) submit proof of graduation from a physical therapist assistant education program
- 51 that is accredited by a recognized accreditation agency;
- 52 (d) ~~[after complying with Subsection (2)(c),]~~ pass a licensing examination approved by
- 53 division rule made in collaboration with the board and in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter
- 54 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act[;];
- 55 (i) after the applicant complies with Subsection (2)(c); or
- 56 (ii) if the applicant is in the final term of a physical therapist assistant education
- 57 program that is accredited by a recognized accreditation agency;
- 58 (e) be able to read, write, speak, understand, and be understood in the English language

59 and demonstrate proficiency to the satisfaction of the board if requested by the board;

60 (f) submit to, and pass, a criminal background check, in accordance with Section
61 [58-24b-302.1](#) and standards established by rule made in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3,
62 Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act; and

63 (g) meet any other requirements established by the division, by rule made in
64 accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act.

65 (3) An applicant for a license as a physical therapist who is educated outside of the
66 United States shall:

67 (a) be of good moral character;

68 (b) complete the application process, including payment of fees;

69 (c) (i) provide satisfactory evidence that the applicant graduated from a professional
70 physical therapist education program that is accredited by a recognized accreditation agency; or

71 (ii) (A) provide satisfactory evidence that the applicant graduated from a physical
72 therapist education program that prepares the applicant to engage in the practice of physical
73 therapy, without restriction;

74 (B) provide satisfactory evidence that the education program described in Subsection
75 (3)(c)(ii)(A) is recognized by the government entity responsible for recognizing a physical
76 therapist education program in the country where the program is located; and

77 (C) pass a credential evaluation to ensure that the applicant has satisfied uniform
78 educational requirements;

79 (d) after complying with Subsection (3)(c), pass a licensing examination;

80 (e) be able to read, write, speak, understand, and be understood in the English language
81 and demonstrate proficiency to the satisfaction of the board if requested by the board;

82 (f) if the applicant is applying to participate in the Physical Therapy Licensure
83 Compact under Chapter 24c, Physical Therapy Licensure Compact, consent to a criminal
84 background check in accordance with Section [58-24b-302.1](#) and any requirements established
85 by rule made in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act;
86 and

87 (g) meet any other requirements established by the division, by rule made in
88 accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act.

89 (4) The division shall issue a license to a person who holds a current unrestricted

90 license to practice physical therapy in a state, district, or territory of the United States of
91 America, other than Utah, if the person:

- 92 (a) is of good moral character;
- 93 (b) completes the application process, including payment of fees;
- 94 (c) is able to read, write, speak, understand, and be understood in the English language
95 and demonstrate proficiency to the satisfaction of the board if requested by the board;

96 (d) if the applicant is applying to participate in the Physical Therapy Licensure
97 Compact under Chapter 24c, Physical Therapy Licensure Compact, consents to a criminal
98 background check in accordance with Section 58-24b-302.1 and any requirements established
99 by rule made in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act;
100 and

101 (e) meets any other requirements established by the division, by rule made in
102 accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act.

103 (5) (a) Notwithstanding Subsection 58-1-307(1)(c), an individual may not engage in an
104 internship in physical therapy, unless the person is:

- 105 (i) certified by the division; or
- 106 (ii) exempt from licensure under Section 58-24b-304.

107 (b) The provisions of Subsection (5)(a) apply, regardless of whether the individual is
108 participating in the supervised clinical training program for the purpose of becoming a physical
109 therapist or a physical therapist assistant.