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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1113**

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**State of Washington**

**56th Legislature**

**1999 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Health Care (originally sponsored by Representatives Campbell, Cody and Boldt)

Read first time 02/16/1999.

1 AN ACT Relating to the practice of occupational therapy; and  
2 amending RCW 18.59.020, 18.59.031, and 18.59.100.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.59.020 and 1991 c 3 s 153 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in  
7 this section apply throughout this chapter.

8 (1) "Board" means the board of occupational therapy practice.

9 (2) "Occupational therapy" is the scientifically based use of  
10 purposeful activity with individuals who are limited by physical injury  
11 or illness, psychosocial dysfunction, developmental or learning  
12 disabilities, or the aging process in order to maximize independence,  
13 prevent disability, and maintain health. The practice encompasses  
14 evaluation, treatment, and consultation. Specific occupational therapy  
15 services include but are not limited to: Using specifically designed  
16 activities and exercises to enhance neurodevelopmental, cognitive,  
17 perceptual motor, sensory integrative, and psychomotor functioning;  
18 administering and interpreting tests such as manual muscle and sensory  
19 integration; teaching daily living skills; developing prevocational

1 skills and play and avocational capabilities; designing, fabricating,  
2 or applying selected orthotic and prosthetic devices or selected  
3 adaptive equipment; and adapting environments for the handicapped.  
4 These services are provided individually, in groups, or through social  
5 systems.

6 (3) "Occupational therapist" means a person licensed to practice  
7 occupational therapy under this chapter.

8 (4) "Occupational therapy assistant" means a person licensed to  
9 assist in the practice of occupational therapy under the supervision or  
10 with the regular consultation of an occupational therapist.

11 (5) "Occupational therapy aide" means a person who is trained to  
12 perform specific occupational therapy techniques under professional  
13 supervision as defined by the board but who does not perform activities  
14 that require advanced training in the sciences or practices involved in  
15 the profession of occupational therapy.

16 (6) "Occupational therapy practitioner" means a person who is  
17 credentialed as an occupational therapist or occupational therapy  
18 assistant.

19 (7) "Person" means any individual, partnership, unincorporated  
20 organization, or corporate body, except that only an individual may be  
21 licensed under this chapter.

22 ((+7)) (8) "Department" means the department of health.

23 ((+8)) (9) "Secretary" means the secretary of health.

24 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.59.031 and 1987 c 150 s 44 are each amended to read  
25 as follows:

26 No person may practice or represent himself or herself as an  
27 occupational ((therapist)) therapy practitioner without first having a  
28 valid license to do so.

29 **Sec. 3.** RCW 18.59.100 and 1986 c 259 s 101 are each amended to  
30 read as follows:

31 An occupational therapist shall, after evaluating a patient and if  
32 the case is a medical one, refer the case to a physician for  
33 appropriate medical direction if such direction is lacking. Treatment  
34 by an occupational therapist of such a medical case may take place only  
35 upon the referral of a physician ((or podiatrist)), osteopathic  
36 physician, podiatric physician and surgeon, naturopath, chiropractor,

1 physician assistant, psychologist, or advanced registered nurse  
2 practitioner licensed to practice (~~medicine~~) in this state.

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