

FINAL BILL REPORT

SB 5465

C 280 L 13
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Concerning exemptions from licensure as a physical therapist.

Sponsors: Senators Dammeier, Schlicher, Becker, Keiser and McAuliffe.

Senate Committee on Health Care
House Committee on Health Care & Wellness

Background: The practice of physical therapy is based on movement and science and involves evaluating individuals with functional limitations in movement in order to determine a plan of therapeutic intervention that includes therapeutic exercise, therapeutic massage, and patient-related instruction. Both physical therapists and physical therapist assistants must be licensed by the Department of Health. Physical therapist assistants perform physical therapy procedures and related tasks that are delegated by a supervising physical therapist. These tasks must fall within the scope of the physical therapy practice and may not exceed the education or training of the physical therapy assistant.

Physical therapist assistants are not required to be licensed if they are pursuing a physical therapist assistant degree and are satisfying clinical education requirements while under the direct supervision of a licensed physical therapist. Physical therapists are permitted to supervise a total of two assistive personnel.

Summary: A physical therapist assistant is not required to be licensed if the physical therapist assistant is pursuing a physical therapist assistant degree and is satisfying clinical education requirements while under the direct supervision of a licensed physical therapist or a licensed physical therapist assistant.

Physical therapists may supervise two assistive personnel and two students pursuing a degree as a physical therapist or a physical therapist assistant.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	49	0	
House	93	0	(House amended)
Senate	48	0	(Senate concurred)

Effective: July 28, 2013.

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