

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 6407

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As Reported by Senate Committee On:  
Health & Long Term Care, February 5, 2020

**Title:** An act relating to spinal manipulation endorsement requirements for physical therapists.

**Brief Description:** Concerning spinal manipulation endorsement requirements for physical therapists.

**Sponsors:** Senators Van De Wege and Rivers.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Health & Long Term Care: 1/29/20, 2/05/20 [DP, DNP, w/oRec].

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Maintains the ability of individuals holding an equivalent endorsement to a spinal manipulation endorsement to act as a clinical supervisor for a physical therapist gaining supervised clinical practical experience.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG TERM CARE

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators Cleveland, Chair; Randall, Vice Chair; Dhingra, Frockt, Rivers and Van De Wege.

**Minority Report:** Do not pass.

Signed by Senator Conway.

**Minority Report:** That it be referred without recommendation.

Signed by Senators O'Ban, Ranking Member; Becker, Keiser and Muzzall.

**Staff:** Greg Attanasio (786-7410)

**Background:** Physical therapy services include:

- examining, evaluating, and testing individuals with mechanical, physiological, and developmental impairments, functional limitations in movement, and disability or other health and movement-related conditions;

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- alleviating impairments and functional limitations in movement;
- performing wound care services;
- reducing the risk of injury, impairment, functional limitation, and disability related to movement;
- engaging in administration, consultation, education, and research; and
- spinal manipulation—after being issued an endorsement.

To obtain a spinal manipulation endorsement, a physical therapist must have at least one year of full-time, orthopedic, postgraduate practice experience that consists of direct patient care averaging at least 36 hours a week. They must also demonstrate sufficient training hours in differential diagnosis, didactic and practical training related to the delivery of spinal manipulative procedures, and spinal diagnostic imaging. A physical therapist must complete at least 300 hours of supervised clinical experience in spinal manipulative procedures. The supervision may be provided by a clinical supervisor who:

- holds a spinal manipulation endorsement;
- is a licensed chiropractor or osteopathic physician and surgeon; or
- holds an endorsement or advanced certification, the training requirements for which are commensurate with the training requirements for a spinal manipulation endorsement.

Effective July 1, 2020, individuals who hold an endorsement or advanced certification with training requirements commensurate with the training requirements for a spinal manipulation endorsement, may no longer act as a clinical supervisor.

**Summary of Bill:** The provision set to take effect on July 1, 2020, removing individuals who hold an endorsement or advanced certification with training requirements commensurate with the training requirements for a spinal manipulation endorsement, from the list of those who can provide supervised clinical experience, is repealed.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** PRO: Since the original bill was passed, Washington has entered into the interstate physical therapy licensure compact. This bill is meant to allow out-of-state physical therapists to count their supervised hours toward the endorsement.

CON: The current statute represents a negotiated agreement and the provision should be allowed to sunset as agreed. Out-of-state physical therapists can still practice in Washington except for performing spinal manipulations.

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Senator Kevin Van De Wege, Prime Sponsor; Melissa Johnson, Physical Therapy Association of Washington.

CON: Lori Grassi, Washington State Chiropractic Association.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** No one.