

HB 3824 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Wallan

House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Action Date: 04/08/25

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 8-1-0-0

Yeas: 8 - Diehl, Harbick, Isadore, Javadi, McIntire, Munoz, Nelson, Nosse

Nays: 1 - Pham H

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 3/18, 4/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure makes changes to laws regulating the practice of physical therapy, including modifying the scope of practice of physical therapists.

Detailed Summary:

- Permits the Oregon Board of Physical Therapy (OBPT) to approve by rule a national examination to determine the fitness of a person to practice as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant. Specifies the skills and knowledge exam should test for. Requires OBPT to report exam standard violations to the Federal or State Boards of Physical Therapy.
- Allows OBPT to require fingerprints for criminal records checks of licensee applicants, employees with access to confidential information, and individuals under investigation.
- Requires OBPT licensees to report name, address, or contact information changes to the Board within 30 days.
- Authorizes physical therapists to prescribe durable medical equipment.
- Authorizes physical therapists to administer vaccines to individuals seven years of age or older; individuals three years of age or older during a declared public health emergency; and individuals six months of age or older for influenza vaccines.
- Allows OBPT to reinstate a revoked or suspended license in specified circumstances; permits the Board to require license conditions, passage of examination, or successful completion of continuing competence education or practice assessment tools.
- Permits physical therapists and physical therapist assistants to provide physical therapy services via telemedicine.
- Defines terms, including "competence," "consultation," "continuing competency," "on-site supervision," "supervision," "telehealth," and "testing;" updates definition of "practice of physical therapy."
- Updates individuals and circumstances to which OBPT licensing requirements apply.
- Clarifies requirements for individuals whose licenses have lapsed to have their license reinstated.
- Clarifies physical therapists' scope of practice, including permitted delegation to a physical therapy aide.
- Clarifies circumstances authorizing OBPT to impose sanctions on licensees.
- Limits term of OBPT members.
- Clarifies Board responsibilities and duties.
- Exempts physical therapist from requirement to obtain a license to use sonographic equipment if therapist is using equipment solely for physical therapy purposes.
- Permits physical therapist to sign and date application for disabled person parking permit.
- Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Scope of practice in other states

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- Potential for some changes in scope of practice to support primary care access
- Misleading usage of "D.P.T." title
- Alignment of scope changes with educational and training standards

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

- Deletes provisions limiting use of specified titles.

BACKGROUND:

Physical therapy is treatment offered to help people improve their movement and physical function, manage pain and other chronic conditions, and recover from and prevent injury. Physical therapy can be part of a generalized pain management plan or part of a specific treatment plan for an injury or health condition, including recovery from surgery.

The Oregon Board of Physical Therapy licenses physical therapists and physical therapy assistants in Oregon. According to the Health Care Workforce Reporting Program, there were 5,463 licensed physical therapists and 1,364 licensed physical therapy assistants in Oregon in 2022.

House Bill 3824 A makes changes to laws regulating the practice of physical therapy, including modifying the scope of practice of physical therapists.