

HB 3824 B STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Reynolds

Senate Committee On Health Care

Action Date: 05/20/25

Action: Do pass with amendments to the A-Eng bill. (Printed B-Eng.)

Vote: 3-2-0-0

Yeas: 3 - Campos, Patterson, Reynolds

Nays: 2 - Hayden, Linthicum

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Katie Hart, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 5/6, 5/8, 5/20

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. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

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.
- Permits physical therapists to provide dry needling as defined by the Oregon Board of Physical Therapy (OBPT).
- Directs OBPT to establish rules regarding dry needling.
- Allows OBPT to reinstate a revoked or suspended license in specified circumstances.
- Permits OBPT to require license conditions, passage of examination, or successful completion of continuing competence education or practice assessment tools.
- Defines terms, including "competence," "consultation," "continuing competency," "on-site supervision," and "supervision."
- 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.
- Adds physical therapists to Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 742.400, relating to the duty to report a claim of negligence to a licensing board.
- Becomes operative July 1, 2027.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Scope of practice of physical therapists, primary care providers, acupuncturists, and chiropractors.
- Stakeholder engagement.

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- Dry needling regulation.

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Removes provisions that would allow physical therapists prescribe durable medical equipment, administer vaccines, and provide telehealth services. Allows physical therapists to perform dry needling. Adds physical therapists to Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 742.400. Changes the operative date of the measure.

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, health condition, or in recovery from surgery.

The Oregon Board of Physical Therapy (OBPT) licenses physical therapists and physical therapy assistants in Oregon. A physical therapist or physical therapy assistant working in Oregon must be licensed by OBPT or hold an [Oregon Compact Privilege](#). 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 B makes changes to laws regulating the practice of physical therapy, including modifying the scope of practice of physical therapists.