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SENATE BILL 5465

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State of Washington                      63rd Legislature                      2013 Regular Session

By Senators Dammeier, Schlicher, Becker, Keiser, and McAuliffe

Read first time 01/31/13. Referred to Committee on Health Care .

1            AN ACT Relating to exemptions from licensure as a physical  
2 therapist; and amending RCW 18.74.150 and 18.74.180.

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

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.74.150 and 2007 c 98 s 13 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6            (1) It is unlawful for any person to practice or in any manner hold  
7 himself or herself out to practice physical therapy or designate  
8 himself or herself as a physical therapist or physical therapist  
9 assistant, unless he or she is licensed in accordance with this  
10 chapter.

11            (2) This chapter does not restrict persons licensed under any other  
12 law of this state from engaging in the profession or practice for which  
13 they are licensed, if they are not representing themselves to be  
14 physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, or providers of  
15 physical therapy.

16            (3) The following persons are exempt from licensure as physical  
17 therapists under this chapter when engaged in the following activities:

18            (a) A person who is pursuing a course of study leading to a degree  
19 as a physical therapist in an approved professional education program

1 and is satisfying supervised clinical education requirements related to  
2 his or her physical therapy education while under direct supervision of  
3 a licensed physical therapist;

4 (b) A physical therapist while practicing in the United States  
5 armed services, United States public health service, or veterans  
6 administration as based on requirements under federal regulations for  
7 state licensure of health care providers; and

8 (c) A physical therapist licensed in another United States  
9 jurisdiction, or a foreign-educated physical therapist credentialed in  
10 another country, performing physical therapy as part of teaching or  
11 participating in an educational seminar of no more than sixty days in  
12 a calendar year.

13 (4) The following persons are exempt from licensure as physical  
14 therapist assistants under this chapter when engaged in the following  
15 activities:

16 (a) A person who is pursuing a course of study leading to a degree  
17 as a physical therapist assistant in an approved professional education  
18 program and is satisfying supervised clinical education requirements  
19 related to his or her physical therapist assistant education while  
20 under direct supervision of a licensed physical therapist or licensed  
21 physical therapist assistant;

22 (b) A physical therapist assistant while practicing in the United  
23 States armed services, United States public health service, or veterans  
24 administration as based on requirements under federal regulations for  
25 state licensure of health care providers; and

26 (c) A physical therapist assistant licensed in another United  
27 States jurisdiction, or a foreign-educated physical therapist assistant  
28 credentialed in another country, or a physical therapist assistant who  
29 is teaching or participating in an educational seminar of no more than  
30 sixty days in a calendar year.

31 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.74.180 and 2007 c 98 s 16 are each amended to read  
32 as follows:

33 A physical therapist is professionally and legally responsible for  
34 patient care given by assistive personnel under his or her supervision.  
35 If a physical therapist fails to adequately supervise patient care  
36 given by assistive personnel, the board may take disciplinary action  
37 against the physical therapist.

1 (1) Regardless of the setting in which physical therapy services  
2 are provided, only the licensed physical therapist may perform the  
3 following responsibilities:

4 (a) Interpretation of referrals;

5 (b) Initial examination, problem identification, and diagnosis for  
6 physical therapy;

7 (c) Development or modification of a plan of care that is based on  
8 the initial examination and includes the goals for physical therapy  
9 intervention;

10 (d) Determination of which tasks require the expertise and  
11 decision-making capacity of the physical therapist and must be  
12 personally rendered by the physical therapist, and which tasks may be  
13 delegated;

14 (e) Assurance of the qualifications of all assistive personnel to  
15 perform assigned tasks through written documentation of their education  
16 or training that is maintained and available at all times;

17 (f) Delegation and instruction of the services to be rendered by  
18 the physical therapist, physical therapist assistant, or physical  
19 therapy aide including, but not limited to, specific tasks or  
20 procedures, precautions, special problems, and contraindicated  
21 procedures;

22 (g) Timely review of documentation, reexamination of the patient,  
23 and revision of the plan of care when indicated;

24 (h) Establishment of a discharge plan.

25 (2) Supervision requires that the patient reevaluation is  
26 performed:

27 (a) Every fifth visit, or if treatment is performed more than five  
28 times per week, reevaluation must be performed at least once a week;

29 (b) When there is any change in the patient's condition not  
30 consistent with planned progress or treatment goals.

31 (3) Supervision of assistive personnel means:

32 (a) Physical therapist assistants may function under direct or  
33 indirect supervision;

34 (b) Physical therapy aides must function under direct supervision;

35 (c) The physical therapist may supervise a total of two assistive  
36 personnel at any one time. The limitation in this subsection (3)(c)

1 does not apply to persons who are pursuing a course of study leading to  
2 a degree as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant.

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