

Orig. P.T. law - June 1, 1947

CHAPTER 906.

(House Bill 69)

Examined by Committee on Printed Bills:

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Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his

approval this.....day of.....

at.....o'clock,.....M.

.....
Chief Clerk.

AN ACT to add a new sub-title and eleven new sections to Article 43 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1939 Edition), title "Health", said new sub-title to read "Physical Therapy", and said new sections to be known as Sections 531 to 541, inclusive, and to follow immediately after Section 530 of said Article defining Physical Therapy and qualifying those permitted to use the title "Physical Therapist" its signs or symbols, creating a Board of Physical Therapy Examiners, providing for the licensing of qualified Physical Therapists in this State, and providing penalties for the unauthorized practice of Physical Therapy and for the illegal use of the title "Physical Therapist".

1 SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Mary-*
2 *land, That a new sub-title and eleven new sections be and the*
3 *same are hereby added to Article 43 of the Annotated Code of*
4 *Maryland (1939 Edition), title "Health", said new sub-title to*
5 *be known as "Physical Therapy", and said new sections to be*
6 *known as Sections 531 to 541, inclusive, to follow immediately*
7 *after Section 530 of said Article, and to read as follows:*

PHYSICAL THERAPY.

1 531. Physical Therapy is defined for the purpose of this sub-
2 title as the treatment of human injuries, diseases, or disabili-
3 ties by means of the healing properties of exercise, massage,
4 ultra-violet rays, mechanical devices, heat, cold, air, light,
5 water, and electricity, but not by means of Roentgen rays,
6 radium, surgery or drugs.

1 532. A Physical Therapist is defined for the purpose of this
2 sub-title as one who:

3 (a) Treats human diseases, injuries or disabilities by Phy-
4 sical Therapy;

- 5 (b) Treats only patients diagnosed and referred by licensed
6 medical doctors;
- 7 (c) Treats for fees; and
- 8 (d) Meets those requirements regarding experience and
9 training in Physical Therapy as set forth in this sub-
10 title.

1 533. The Governor is hereby empowered and directed to
2 appoint a State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners, to con-
3 sist of five (5) members, the original five to be selected from a
4 list submitted by the Maryland State Registry of Physical
5 Therapists, or Maryland State Physical Therapy Society,
5a Inc., and subsequent appointments to be selected from
6 lists submitted by the State Board of Physical Therapy Ex-
7 aminers. One of the original appointees shall be appointed
8 for a term of one (1) year; one for a term of two (2) years;
9 one for a term of three (3) years; one for a term of four (4)
10 years, and one for a term of five (5) years. Thereafter ap-
11 pointments shall be for a term of five (5) years. In case of
12 any vacancy on said Board the Governor shall appoint a mem-
13 ber with the same qualifications of the member whose death,
14 resignation or expiration of term has caused such vacancy.
15 For the transaction of business under this sub-title a quorum
16 of said Board shall be three or more members. Members of
17 said Board shall, out of receipts, be entitled to a per diem not
18 to exceed Ten Dollars (\$10.00) and their necessary expenses
19 for each day that they are engaged in the business of the Board
20 as required by this sub-title. The Board shall annually elect
21 one of its members as chairman and shall also elect a secretary
22 who need not necessarily be a member of the Board, and said
23 secretary shall receive such compensation as the Board shall
24 determine.

1 534. Annually after January 1, 1948, or more often if the
2 Board shall deem it necessary, the said Board shall hold an
3 examination for applicants for licenses to practice Physical
4 Therapy in this State. Notice of time and place of such exami-
5 nation shall be given by one or more announcements in a daily
6 newspaper published in the City of Baltimore and by such
7 other methods as the said Board may see fit to use.

1 535. The said Board is empowered to pass upon the qualifi-
2 cations of applicants for licenses and shall make such rules
3 and regulations, not inconsistent with this sub-title, as are
4 necessary for the examination and licensing of applicants, and
5 for suspension or revocation of licenses.

1 536. The said Board shall be and is hereby empowered, after
2 due notice and hearing, to suspend or revoke any licenses
3 issued, under the provisions of this sub-title, to anyone who
4 does or attempts to do any act, or holds himself or herself as
5 being authorized to do any act as a Physical Therapist not
6 expressly conferred herein upon such licensee, or for any viola-
7 tions of this sub-title.

1 537. (A) Without Examination: Any person practicing
2 Physical Therapy in the State of Maryland at the time of the
3 effective date of this Act shall be entitled to be licensed as a
4 Physical Therapist if: (1) he or she is a member of the Mary-
5 land State Registry of Physical Therapists, or Maryland
5a State Physical Therapy Society, Inc., or (2) if: (a) he
6 or she produces statements from three (3) active, reputable.

7 licensed doctors of medicine certifying that he or she is of good
 8 moral character and has treated patients under the direction
 9 and supervision of the certifying doctor of medicine for a
 10 period of not less than two years in the State of Maryland
 11 prior to the application for license, or if: (b) he or she pro-
 12 duces satisfactory evidence to the State Board of Physical
 13 Therapy Examiners, of experience and training in Physical
 13a Therapy for a period of not less than one year in an
 14 approved hospital. No applications for licenses without ex-
 15 amination shall be accepted after January 1, 1948, unless the
 16 applicant shall be engaged in the military service of the
 17 United States or any of its allies, in which case such applica-
 18 tion shall be accepted at any time within six (6) months after
 19 honorable discharge from such military service.

20 (B) By Examination: (1) Every person other than those
 21 covered by 537 (A) above, of good moral character, who has
 22 completed physical therapy training prior to the effective date
 23 of this Act or who is attending a course in physical therapy at
 24 the time of the effective date of this Act, may make application
 25 for examination for license providing that he or she produce
 26 evidence satisfactory to the Maryland State Board of Physical
 27 Therapy Examiners of his or her graduation from a school,
 28 college, hospital or university which has a complete and ac-
 29 ceptable course in physical therapy, and which is accredited
 30 by the Maryland State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners.

31 (2) Persons who shall enter physical therapy training after
 32 the effective date of this Act shall be required to meet one of
 33 the following educational requirements in order to be eligible
 34 to take the examination for license in the State of Maryland:

35 (a) Graduation from an accredited school of nursing plus
 36 an accredited course in Physical Therapy of not less than
 37 9 months; or

38 (b) Graduation from an accredited school of physical edu-
 39 cation plus an accredited course in Physical Therapy of
 40 not less than 9 months; or

41 (c) Completion of three years of college with science courses
 42 plus an accredited course in Physical Therapy of not
 43 less than 9 months; or

44 (d) Graduation from a high school plus a four (4) year col-
 45 lege course with a major in Physical Therapy; or

46 (e) Graduation in Medical Technology with B. S. degree
 47 plus an accredited course in Physical Therapy of not
 48 less than 9 months.

49 (C) Any Physical Therapist licensed or registered in any
 50 other State which has heretofore or which will hereafter estab-
 51 lish such licensing or registering requirements by a legally
 52 constituted board with standards approved by the State Board
 53 of Physical Therapy Examiners of Maryland, and whose quali-
 54 fications are equal to those of this State, in the discretion of
 55 said Board, may be eligible to receive a license as a Physical
 56 Therapist in this State without examination.

1 538. All persons licensed as Physical Therapists under the
 2 provisions of this sub-title shall, as a condition precedent to
 3 the granting of such license, pay to the State Board of Phy-
 4 sical Therapy Examiners a fee of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) which
 5 shall accompany the application for the license.
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1 539. All persons licensed as Physical Therapists under the
2 provisions of this sub-title, and no others, shall be known as
3 Physical Therapists and shall be entitled to use the abbrevia-
4 tion "P. T." or any other words, letters or symbols which indi-
5 cate that the person using the same is a licensed Physical
6 Therapist and authorized to practice as such in this State. The
7 State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners shall send to the
8 State Board of Health the name and address of each person
9 licensed as a Physical Therapist.

1 540. Penalty: Subject to the provisions of this sub-title, no
2 person shall practice as a Physical Therapist as defined herein,
3 nor use the abbreviation "P. T." or any other words, letters or
4 symbols approved by the State Board of Physical Therapy
5 Examiners indicating that he or she is a licensed Physical
6 Therapist in this State unless licensed as herein provided.
7 Any person violating any provision of this sub-title shall be
8 guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined
9 nor more than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00). The State
10 Board of Physical Therapy Examiners shall cause to be pre-
11 sented to the State's Attorney of Baltimore City or of the
12 County wherein any violation occurs, evidence of such viola-
13 tion and may incur any necessary expense in the performance
14 of such duty; such expense to be paid out of the receipts of
15 said Board.

1 541. All laws or parts of laws inconsistent herewith are re-
2 pealed to the extent of such inconsistency, but nothing herein
3 contained shall be construed to amend the laws relating to the
4 practice of chiropractic, osteopathy, dentistry, chiropody, nurs-
5 ing, optometry, medicine and surgery or to prohibit chiro-
6 practors from practicing physical therapy in their practice
7 as chiropractors; nor to the practice of beauty culture, hair
8 dressing or in the operation of health clubs, in non-medical
9 treatments, except as specifically provided in this sub-title,
10 provided, that nothing in this sub-title shall be construed as
11 to prohibit or prevent the advertising of health clubs as
12 health clubs, nor shall any action be taken under the authority
13 of this sub-title to accomplish such a result.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That this Act shall take
2 effect June 1, 1947.

Approved May 7, 1947.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.