

Maryland Chapter, American Physical Therapy Association

Legislative Committee Report 1960-1961

During this past year there have been three projects with which your Legislative Chairman has been concerned:

1. Revision of the Bylaws
2. Incorporation
3. Proposed amendments to the present Physical Therapy Act which became House Bill 360.

Much of the ground work had been done last year in all three of these projects, and this year efforts were directed toward completing these projects, if possible.

1. Since the Bylaw changes were to be submitted to the Executive Committee before being presented to the membership, it seemed expedient to ask that the Executive Committee assist the Legislative Chairman in the final drafting of the amendments to the Bylaws. Your president met twice with the Legislative Chairman, and the Executive Committee then reviewed the Bylaw changes. The new Bylaws were then mimeographed and sent to the membership for consideration at the Annual Business Meeting.

2. With regard to Incorporation, an attorney, Mr. Richard Cleveland, was consulted in December, and he advised that we write the American Physical Therapy Association for their most recent opinions and recommendations. This was done and a copy of the answer was turned over to the attorney. There was further unavoidable delay until the middle of March when your chairman again contacted Mr. Cleveland. It was decided at that time that it would be advisable that we delay final drafting of the Incorporation papers until after the Annual Meeting, because names of officers which must appear on the Incorporation papers would be changed after that meeting. The attorney is prepared to proceed as soon as the new list of officers is given to him.

3. With reference to legislation, the proposed amendments to the present Physical Therapy Act which had been reviewed by the Chapter last year were submitted by the Board of Examiners and appeared as House Bill 360.

The first opposition appeared in regard to the use of the phrase and direction (of a physician) in section 609. This objection was raised by a former member of the Maryland Physical Therapy Society, Incorporated. He had had legal opinion on the matter and stated that the use of the word direction could imply the same as directed supervision, meaning working only in a situation where there was a medical doctor on the premises. This objection was relayed by your chairman to the secretary of the Board of Physical Therapy Examiners who in turn sought legal opinion from an attorney who acts

as advisor to the Board. The second opinion confirmed the objection that had been raised and it was, therefore, deemed advisable by the Board to request deletion of the word direction, leaving written or verbal order of a physician.

A hearing was called by the House Judiciary Committee for 3 p.m. on Thursday, March 16. Your president and your legislative chairman went to Annapolis to represent the American Physical Therapy Association, Maryland Chapter. The session lasted almost an hour and a half, and much to our surprise the two representatives of the Maryland Physical Therapy Society, Inc. declared themselves opposed to the entire bill. In view of having given tacit approval at a Board Meeting, this action seemed unwarranted. The hearing did; however, result in three other changes by the House Judiciary Committee, all of which either strengthened the bill or did it no harm.

On Friday, March 31 at 10 a.m. the Bill was scheduled for a hearing before the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee. Miss Huether and your chairman drove to Annapolis, only to find that the meeting had been postponed due to the fact that the Senate had not adjourned until 4 a.m. that morning. Later in the day we were notified that the hearing was re-scheduled for Saturday, April 1 at 10 a.m. This hearing proved to be very short, the opposition was not represented, and the Bill was reported favorably out of Committee. Later that day (which was the last day of the Legislative Session) the Bill passed the Senate. As of this date it is awaiting the Governor's signature.

In summary, none of the three projects has been fully completed but we may look forward to their completion within the next few weeks.

Respectfully submitted

Florence P. Kendall
Legislative Chairman
Maryland Chapter, A.P.T.A.

April 25, 1961

P.S. House Bill 360 was signed by the Governor on May 8, 1961.