



House of Representatives, May 18, 1953. The Committee on Public Health and Safety reported through Mrs. Prokop of Stratford, Chairman of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE LICENSING OF PHYSICAL
THERAPISTS.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in
General Assembly convened:*

1 SECTION 1. As used in this act: (a) "Physical therapist"
2 means a person who practices physical therapy as defined in
3 subsection (b) of this section under the written prescription,
4 supervision and direction of a person licensed in this state to
5 practice medicine and surgery as specified in section 1 of pub-
6 lic act number 87 of 1953. (b) "Physical therapy" means the
7 treatment of any bodily or mental condition of any person
8 by the use of the physical, chemical and other properties of
9 heat, light, water, electricity and sound; massage and thera-
10 peutic exercise, which consists of progressive relaxation, assis-
11 tive, active, resistive, and passive movements, exercises for
12 postural defects, breathing exercises, anti and post-partum ex-
13 ercises, progressive resistance exercises, stretching, individual
14 muscle reeducation, coordination and rhythm exercises, ex-
15 ercise by means of mechanical apparatus, ambulation training
16 with or without braces, crutches or prostheses; and functional
17 training in activities of daily living, including physical rehabili-
18 tation procedures. The term "physical therapy" does not in-
19 clude the use of electricity for surgical purposes or cauteriza-
20 tion or the use of Roentgen rays or radium for diagnostic or
21 therapeutic purposes.

1 SEC. 2. The Connecticut state board of examiners for phys-
2 ical therapists, consisting of three physicians and two physical
3 therapists appointed as herein provided, is hereby created.

4 Members of the Connecticut state board of examiners for phys-
5 iotherapy technicians in office on the effective date of this act
6 shall continue to serve, for the terms for which they were ap-
7 pointed, as members of the Connecticut state board of ex-
8 aminers for physical therapists. On or before July 1, 1953, the
9 governor shall appoint, from a list of names submitted by the
10 Connecticut chapter of the American Physical Therapy Asso-
11 ciation, two physical therapists as members of said board of
12 examiners for physical therapists, one to serve for a term of
13 two years from July 1, 1953, and one to serve for a term of
14 three years from July 1, 1953. On or before July first, in each
15 of the years 1955 and 1956, and triennially thereafter, the
16 governor shall appoint, from a list of names submitted by said
17 Connecticut chapter, a physical therapist as a member of said
18 board to serve for a term of three years from July first in the
19 year of his appointment. On or before July first in each of the
20 years 1955, 1956 and 1957, and quinquennially thereafter, the
21 governor shall appoint from a list of names submitted by the
22 Connecticut state medical society, a physician as a member of
23 said board to serve for five years from July first in the year of
25 his appointment. Vacancies in said board shall be filled by
25 the governor for the unexpired portion of the term from the
26 lists herein provided for. All appointments shall be subject
27 to the provisions of section 93 of the general statutes.

1 SEC. 3. Section 4400 of the general statutes is repealed
2 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof: *Said board*
3 *shall meet semi-annually at a time and place to be designated*
4 *by the president of the board.* Said board shall, [at the annual
5 meeting which shall be held on the third Wednesday in June,]
6 *at the spring meeting,* elect from its members a president and
7 a secretary who shall also be treasurer. Said board *shall ad-*
8 *minister the provisions of this act and* may adopt by-laws and
9 regulations for the transaction of the business of the board and
10 the management of its affairs *and for the conduct of examina-*
11 *tions.* Three members of said board shall constitute a quorum
12 and special meetings shall be called upon the request of any
13 three members or the [chairman] *president.* *The board shall*
14 *keep a record of its proceedings under this act and of all per-*
15 *sons registered under the provisions of section 5 or 6 of this*
16 *act.* On request of said board, the [comptroller] *public works*
17 *commissioner* shall provide a suitable room [in the capitol] for
18 its meetings. The place and time of examination shall be at
19 the discretion of the board and held [semi-annually.] *annually*
20 *or more often as, in the discretion of the board, the need re-*

21 *quires*. Said board shall keep a list of all *physical therapy*
22 schools [for training physiotherapy technicians] which are
23 approved by it as maintaining the standard for [the] educa-
24 tion [of physiotherapy technicians] in *physical therapy* as es-
25 tablished by said board.

1 SEC. 4 Section 4401 of the general statutes is repealed and
2 the following is substituted in lieu thereof: The members of
3 the board of examiners for [physiotherapy technicians] *physi-*
4 *cal therapists* shall receive their necessary expenses and ten
5 dollars per day for the time spent in the discharge of their du-
6 ties. The board, subject to the approval of the commissioner
7 of finance and control and the governor, may also expend such
8 reasonable amounts as may be approved by it for books, sta-
9 tionery and other necessary expenses. The expenditures au-
10 thorized by this section shall not exceed the sums received as
11 fees by said board and shall be paid from the receipts of the
12 board, subject to the provisions of public act number 150 of
13 1953.

1 SEC. 5. Any person of good moral character who is a gradu-
2 ate of a school of physical therapy approved by the state board
3 of examiners for physical therapists shall, after such graduation,
4 be eligible for examination for registration as a registered physi-
5 cal therapist upon the payment of a fee of twenty dollars. Said
6 board shall determine the subject matter of such examination,
7 which shall be designed to show proficiency in physical thera-
8 py and related subjects, and shall determine whether such ex-
9 amination shall be written, oral or practical, or a combination.
10 Warning of such examination shall be given by said board not
11 less than two weeks in advance of the date set for the examina-
12 tion. If the applicant passes such examination to the satisfaction
13 of the said board, the board shall certify the applicant to the
14 state department of health for the issuance of a certificate of
15 registered physical therapist, which shall constitute a license to
16 practice physical therapy under the written prescription, direc-
17 tion and supervision of a person licensed in this state to practice
18 medicine and surgery as specified in section 1 of public act
19 number 87 of 1953. Any person who has complied with the re-
20 quirements of this section and who files the proof thereof with
21 the state department of health, shall receive from said depart-
22 ment, upon the payment of a fee of two dollars, a certificate of
23 registration which shall include a statement that the person
24 therein is qualified to practice as a registered physical therapist.

1 SEC. 6. Said board, at its discretion, may certify to the
2 state department of health for registration and licensure as a

3 physical therapist, without examination, on payment of a fee
4 of ten dollars, an applicant for registration who is a physical
5 therapist registered under the laws of any other state or terri-
6 tory of the United States, any province of Canada or any other
7 country, if the requirements for registration of physical thera-
8 pists in such state, territory, province or country were, at the
9 date of his registration, substantially equal to the requirements
10 in force in this state and if such state, territory, province or
11 country accords a similar privilege of registration without ex-
12 amination to a holder of a certificate of registration as a physical
13 therapist in this state.

1 **SEC. 7.** Any person who, on October 1, 1953, holds a cer-
2 tificate of registration from the state department of health as
3 a registered physiotherapy technician shall be entitled to a
4 certificate of registration as a physical therapist without the
5 examination provided for in section 5 of this act.

1 **SEC. 8.** **Section 3821 of the general statutes is repealed and**
2 **the following is substituted in lieu thereof:** Each person holding
3 a license to practice medicine, surgery, osteopathy, midwifery,
4 chiropractic, natureopathy, chiropody, nursing or **【physio-**
5 **therapy】** *physical therapy* and each person licensed to use any
6 other means or agency to treat, prescribe for, heal or otherwise
7 alleviate human ills, deformity, ailment or disease, shall, an-
8 nually, during the month of January, register with the state
9 department of health, upon payment of a fee of two dollars,
10 on blanks to be furnished by said department for such pur-
11 pose, giving his name in full, his residence and business address
12 and such other information as said department shall request,
13 provided any licensed person who shall have retired from
14 active practice or who shall live outside of this state or who
15 shall practice nursing wholly without pay or material com-
16 pensation shall be required to register but shall not be required
17 to pay such annual registration fee. No provision of this sec-
18 tion shall be construed to apply to any person practicing den-
19 tistry, optometry or Christian Science. On or before the first
20 day of June in each year, said department shall cause to be
21 printed and mailed to each person who shall have registered
22 in accordance with the provisions of this section a list of the
23 names of all such registered persons, and there shall be printed
24 at the beginning of such list the following: "Each person re-
25 ceiving this list is requested to report to the state department
26 of health the name and address of any person known to be
27 practicing medicine, surgery, midwifery, chiropractic, osteo-
28 pathy, natureopathy, chiropody, nursing or **【physiotherapy】**

29 *physical therapy* in this state whose name fails to appear in
30 this registry. The names of persons giving such information
31 will not be divulged." Any person violating any provision of
32 this section shall be fined not more than five dollars.

1 **SEC. 9.** No person who is not registered with the state de-
2 partment of health as a physical therapist shall represent him-
3 self as being so registered or use in connection with his name
4 the letters "R.P.T." or the words "Registered Physical Thera-
5 pist," or any other letters, words or insignia indicating or imply-
6 ing that he is a registered physical therapist in this state. Any
7 person who violates the provisions of this section shall be fined
8 not more than one hundred dollars or be imprisoned for not
9 more than six months, or both. Any person who obtains or at-
10 tempts to obtain registration as a physical therapist by any wil-
11 ful misrepresentation or any fraudulent representation shall be
12 fined not more than one hundred dollars or imprisoned for not
13 more than six months, or both. No person registered under this
14 act as a physical therapist shall treat human ailments by physi-
15 cal therapy or otherwise except under the written prescription,
16 supervision and direction of a person licensed in this state to
17 practice medicine and surgery as provided in section 1 of pub-
18 lic act number 87 of 1953. Any person who violates the provi-
19 sions of this section shall be subject to revocation of his license
20 in the same manner as is provided under sections 4358 and
21 4361 of the general statutes and section 910b of the 1951 sup-
22 plement thereto and public act number 142 of 1953.

1 **SEC. 10.** The state department of health shall, during the
2 month of January of each year, compile a list of registered
3 physical therapists authorized to practice physical therapy in
4 this state and shall mail a copy of such list to the prosecuting
5 attorney of each county, the superintendent of each known
6 hospital in the state, each registered physical therapist and
7 each physician licensed in this state to practice medicine and
8 surgery as provided in section 1 of public act number 87 of
9 1953. Any other interested person may obtain a copy of such
10 list by application to the state department of health on pay-
11 ment of such amount as may be fixed by said department to
12 cover the cost of such list.

1 **SEC. 11.** A person who is registered with the state depart-
2 ment of health as a physical therapist may represent himself
3 as being so registered and may use in connection with his name
4 the term "Registered Physical Therapist" or the abbreviation
5 "R.P.T.". Any person previously registered in this state as a
6 "Registered Physiotherapy Technician", abbreviated "R.P.T.",

7 shall be known as a "Registered Physical Therapist" and may
8 use the letters "R.P.T." to so designate himself.

1 **SEC. 12.** No provision of this act shall confer any authority
2 to practice medicine or surgery, nor shall this act prohibit the
3 incidental care of the sick by domestic servants or by persons
4 principally employed as housekeepers, nor prohibit any per-
5 son from the domestic administration of family remedies or
6 the furnishing of assistance in the case of emergency. It shall
7 not prohibit persons registered under the provisions of chapters
8 208, 209, 210, 213 or 219 of the general statutes from adminis-
9 tering care to patients, nor shall it prohibit the care of the sick
10 with or without compensation or personal profit in connection
11 with the practice of the religious tenets of any church by ad-
12 herents thereof, provided such persons shall not otherwise en-
13 gage in the practice of physical therapy within the meaning of
14 this act. It shall not prohibit students who are enrolled in
15 schools or courses of physical therapy approved by the board
16 of examiners for physical therapists from performing such work
17 as is incidental to their respective courses of study, nor shall
18 it prohibit graduates of such schools of physical therapy from
19 treating the sick under the written prescription, direction and
20 supervision of a person licensed in this state to practice medi-
21 cine and surgery as provided in section 1 of public act number
22 87 of 1953, pending the results of the first examination for cer-
23 tification scheduled by the board following their graduation;
24 nor shall it prohibit any physical therapist from another state
25 from doing such therapist's work as is incidental to his course
26 of study when taking a postgraduate course in this state which
27 is approved by the said board. Any physical therapist who is
28 a graduate from a school approved by said board of examiners
29 but not registered in this state may, after the approval of said
30 board, care for a patient in this state on a temporary basis for
31 a period of three months, which period may be extended upon
32 request at the discretion of the board, provided such physical
33 therapist shall not represent himself as being licensed to prac-
34 tice in this state. Persons in the service of the federal govern-
35 ment are excluded from the provisions of this act.

1 **SEC. 13.** Sections 4398, 4399 and 4402 to 4409, inclusive,
2 of the general statutes are repealed.