

CHAPTER 967

S.B. No. 635

AN ACT

relating to the regulation of physical therapists.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Subsections (h) and (k), Section 3, Chapter 836, Acts of the 62nd Legislature, Regular Session, 1971, as amended (Article 4512e, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), are amended to read as follows:

(h) The board shall prepare information of consumer interest describing the regulatory functions of the board and the board's procedures by which consumer complaints are filed with and resolved by the board. *The board shall also prepare information relating to and reporting any previous disciplinary action by the board against a physical therapist licensed in this state, the date of the action, and the current status of the action.* The board shall make the information available to the general public and appropriate state agencies. *The board shall establish a toll-free telephone number to make the information immediately available to any caller during regular business hours.*

(k) The board may recognize, prepare, or implement continuing education programs for licensees. Participation in the programs is *mandatory. The board shall adopt rules relating to its continuing education requirements, including rules relating to the approval of continuing education courses and prescribing the number of continuing education hours each licensee must complete to retain eligibility for renewal of the license [voluntary].*

SECTION 2. Subsection (a), Section 13, Chapter 836, Acts of the 62nd Legislature, Regular Session, 1971, as amended (Article 4512e, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended to read as follows:

(a) An applicant who fails to pass a one-part examination or any part or parts of a divided examination given by the board may take another one-part examination or the part or parts of the divided examination that he failed on payment of an additional examination fee. ~~[The applicant must be reexamined not less than six months nor more than 12 months after the unsuccessful examination.]~~

SECTION 3. Subsection (b), Section 15, Chapter 836, Acts of the 62nd Legislature, Regular Session, 1971, as amended (Article 4512e, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended to read as follows:

(b) A person may renew his unexpired license by *filing a renewal application with [paying to] the board before the expiration date of the license, accompanied by the required renewal fee. The renewal application must include evidence satisfactory to the board that the licensee has fulfilled the continuing education requirements imposed under Subsection (k) of Section 3 of this Act.*

SECTION 4. (a) This Act takes effect September 1, 1987.

(b) Section 15, Chapter 836, Acts of the 62nd Legislature, Regular Session, 1971 (Article 4512e, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), as amended by this Act, applies only to continuing education requirements for a physical therapist license that is renewed on or after September 1, 1987. Continuing education requirements for a license renewed before that date are governed by the law in effect on the date that the license was renewed, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 5. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended.

Passed the Senate on May 1, 1987, by a viva-voce vote. Passed the House on May 21, 1987, by a non-record vote.

Approved June 19, 1987.

Effective Sept. 1, 1987.