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## DIGEST

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HB 305 Engrossed

2017 Regular Session

Johnson

**Abstract:** Authorizes the La. Physical Therapy Board to license foreign graduates and military-trained applicants and charge a fee for reviewing continuing education programs.

Proposed law provides that any result of displacing competition by restricting licensure to practice physical therapy, as such practice is defined and interpreted by the La. Physical Therapy Board (board), to applicants determined by the board to be qualified to practice physical therapy is outweighed by the state's broader interest in the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare.

Proposed law requires active state oversight and supervision of the board to be conducted through all of the following means:

- (1) Legislative enactment of the La. Physical Therapy Practice Act.
- (2) Appointment and removal of board members by the governor.
- (3) Application of the Code of Governmental Ethics.
- (4) Adoption of rules pursuant to the APA.
- (5) Mandatory board member training.
- (6) Judicial review where applicable.

Present law authorizes a graduate of a foreign school of physical therapy to qualify for a license as a physical therapist upon meeting the requirements for licensure as a physical therapist as well as complying with additional provisions.

Proposed law retains present law but changes the additional requirements to all of the following:

- (1) Provides satisfactory evidence of successful completion of a foreign physical therapy education curriculum that is substantially equivalent to the requirements for physical therapists educated in accredited physical therapy schools located within the U.S.
- (2) Provides indisputable proof of identity as specified by the board.
- (3) Provides documentation satisfactory to the board of verification of all professional or trade

licenses, certifications, and permits, past or present, held in any country, province, or state, including the U.S., as required by the board.

- (4) Achieves a passing score on a board-approved English proficiency examination if the applicant's native language is not English.
- (5) Completes supervised clinical practice requirements as defined by board rule.
- (6) Meets all additional requirements established by board rule.

Proposed law authorizes a graduate of a foreign school of physical therapy assisting to qualify for a license as a physical therapy assistant upon meeting the requirements for licensure as a physical therapist assistant as well as complying with all of the following provisions:

- (1) Provides satisfactory evidence of successful completion of a foreign physical therapy assistant education curriculum that is substantially equivalent to the requirements for physical therapy assistants educated in accredited physical therapy schools located within the U.S.
- (2) Provides indisputable proof of identity as specified by the board.
- (3) Provides documentation satisfactory to the board of verification of all professional or trade licenses, certifications, and permits, past or present, held in any country, province, or state, including the U.S., as required by the board.
- (4) Achieves a passing score on board-approved English proficiency examinations if the applicant's native language is not English.
- (5) Completes supervised clinical practice requirements as defined by board rule.
- (6) Meets all additional requirements established by board rule.

Proposed law authorizes an applicant who has completed a U.S. armed services program of training not accredited by a national accreditation agency approved by the board to qualify for a license as a physical therapy assistant upon meeting the requirements for licensure as a physical therapist assistant as well as complying with both of the following provisions:

- (1) Provides satisfactory evidence of successful completion of a U.S. armed services program of training that is substantially equivalent to the requirements for physical therapist assistants educated in an accredited entry-level program as determined by the board.
- (2) Meets all additional requirements established by board rule.

Present law authorizes the board to charge certain fees and sets a maximum amount for each fee.

Proposed law retains present law and further authorizes an annual continuing education review fee not to exceed \$250.

(Amends R.S. 37:2410; Adds R.S. 37:2402(C), 2411.1, 2411.2, and 2424(C)(7))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill:

1. Clarify that the continuing education review fee is an annual fee.
2. Delete the proposed course sponsor fee.