



**American Physical Therapy Association of
Maryland**

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 692 - Health Occupations – Physical Therapists and Physical Therapy Assistants -- Qualifications

COMMITTEES: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee Honorable Paul Pinsky

DATE: Wednesday February 26, 2020

POSITION: SUPPORT

APTA of Maryland is the premier organization that advances the profession of physical therapy in the state by focusing on advocacy, education, and the promotion of best practice.

On behalf of the American Physical Therapy Association, we support Senate Bill 692 with slight alterations to the language. As drafted, the bill requires an applicant for a physical therapist assistant license educated in limited physical therapy outside of the United States to have graduated from a program that in the year of graduation has educational requirements equivalent to a degree from an accredited program in the United States. For applicants educated in the United States, the bill clarifies that an applicant for a physical therapist license must have graduated from a program approved by the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) or accredited by the Commission on the Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) rather than approved by the American Medical Association or APTA.

The APTA suggests that, for the purposes of technical clarity, “clinical training” in Line 6 under Section (a) of SB692 be replaced by “clinical education requirements”. This language is pending final approval from the State Board.

APTA members appreciate efforts to streamline the physical therapist assistant licensing criteria. For these reasons, we respectfully request a favorable report.

For further information please contact:

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