



American Physical Therapy Association of Maryland

SUBJECT: House Bill 551; Health Occupations – Physical Therapists and Physical Therapy Assistants -- Qualifications

COMMITTEES: House Health and Government Operations Committee
Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass

DATE: Tuesday February 18, 2020

POSITION: SUPPORT

The 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 of Maryland, we support House Bill 551. 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.

APTA MD suggests that, for the purposes of technical clarity, “clinical training” in Line 6 under Section (a) of HB551 be replaced by “clinical education requirements”. This language clarification has been shared with the State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners prior to the hearing for their consideration.

APTA MD members appreciate efforts to streamline the physical therapist assistant licensing criteria.

For these reasons, we respectfully request a favorable report on House Bill 551.

For further information please contact:

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