

HARRY BHANDARI  
Legislative District 8  
Baltimore County

Health and Government Operations  
Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 303  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3526 · 301-858-3526  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3526  
Harry.Bhandari@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Madam Chair, Madam Vice Chair, esteemed members of the Health and Government Operations Committee, I am here to present **HB551- Health Occupations - Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants- Qualifications.**

Under existing Maryland law, the Board of Physical Therapy Examiners may only issue a physical therapy assistant (PTA) license to an applicant who has graduated from a program approved by the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA).

This bill would allow applicants for a physical therapy assistant license who have been educated outside of Maryland to obtain their license as long as their program was approved by the American Physical Therapy Association or accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education. If an applicant received their education outside the United States, they have to have graduated from a program which had requirements equivalent to a degree in physical therapy from a United States program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy.

In 2019 legislation passed (Chapter 374) to add Maryland to the Interstate Physical Therapy Compact. As a result, because some other states already license foreign-educated PTAs, those licensees will be able to practice in Maryland while those residing here cannot.

The Board of Physical Therapy Examiners believes **HB551** will further provide access to care for Maryland citizens by allowing the licensure of foreign-educated physical therapy assistants.

Thank you very much for your time. I urge a favorable report for **HB551**.