

HB 799

2012

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to physical therapy; creating ss.  
3           486.0715 and 486.1065, F.S.; authorizing issuance of a  
4           temporary permit to practice as a physical therapist  
5           or physical therapist assistant; providing  
6           requirements for issuing a temporary permit; providing  
7           an effective date.

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9   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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11           Section 1. Section 486.0715, Florida Statutes, is created  
12           to read:

13           486.0715 Physical therapist; issuance of temporary  
14           permit.—

15           (1) A temporary permit to practice as a physical therapist  
16           may be granted to an applicant who graduates from a physical  
17           therapy program in the United States recognized by the  
18           Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education,  
19           subject to the following requirements:

20           (a) A temporary permit shall be granted to an applicant  
21           upon his or her graduation date and shall remain in effect until  
22           the results of the National Physical Therapy Examination are  
23           released and published. If the applicant receives a passing  
24           score, he or she may continue to practice as a physical  
25           therapist with a temporary permit until a license is granted at  
26           the next available meeting of the board. A temporary permit is  
27           void if a passing score on the National Physical Therapy  
28           Examination is not obtained.

29        (b) A temporary permit shall not be extended beyond the  
30 time provided in paragraph (a) and is not renewable.

31        (c) A physical therapist who is practicing under a  
32 temporary permit must do so under the direct supervision of a  
33 licensed physical therapist.

34        (d) A supervising licensed physical therapist must  
35 supervise one physical therapist who is practicing under a  
36 temporary permit at any given time, must be licensed for a  
37 minimum of 6 months before the supervision period begins, and  
38 must cosign all patient records produced by the physical  
39 therapist who is practicing under a temporary permit.

40        (2) Before the board grants a temporary permit to practice  
41 as a physical therapist:

42        (a) Documentation verifying that the applicant will  
43 practice under the direct supervision of a licensed physical  
44 therapist as provided in paragraph (1) (c) must be on file with  
45 the board, pursuant to rules adopted by the board.

46        (b) The applicant must demonstrate proof of malpractice  
47 insurance and a passing score on the Florida Laws and Rules  
48 examination administered by the Federation of State Boards of  
49 Physical Therapy.

50        (3) Submission of the application for a temporary permit  
51 to practice as a physical therapist does not authorize an  
52 applicant to begin work as a physical therapist. An applicant  
53 for a temporary permit shall not work as a physical therapist  
54 until a temporary permit is issued by the board.

55        Section 2. Section 486.1065, Florida Statutes, is created  
56 to read:

57           486.1065 Physical therapist assistant; issuance of  
58 temporary permit.—

59           (1) A temporary permit to practice as a physical therapist  
60 assistant may be granted to an applicant who graduates from a  
61 physical therapy program in the United States recognized by the  
62 Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education,  
63 subject to the following requirements:

64           (a) A temporary permit shall be granted to an applicant  
65 upon his or her graduation date and shall remain in effect until  
66 the results of the National Physical Therapy Examination are  
67 released and published. If the applicant receives a passing  
68 score, he or she may continue to practice as a physical  
69 therapist assistant with a temporary permit until a license is  
70 granted at the next available meeting of the board. A temporary  
71 permit is void if a passing score on the National Physical  
72 Therapy Examination is not obtained.

73           (b) A temporary permit shall not be extended beyond the  
74 time provided in paragraph (a) and is not renewable.

75           (c) A physical therapist assistant who is practicing under  
76 a temporary permit must do so under the direct supervision of a  
77 licensed physical therapist.

78           (d) A supervising licensed physical therapist must  
79 supervise one physical therapist assistant who is practicing  
80 under a temporary permit at any given time, must be licensed for  
81 a minimum of 6 months before the supervision period begins, and  
82 must cosign all patient records produced by the physical  
83 therapist assistant who is practicing under a temporary permit.

84           (2) Before the board grants a temporary permit to practice

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85 as a physical therapist assistant:

86 (a) Documentation verifying that the applicant will  
87 practice under the direct supervision of a licensed physical  
88 therapist as provided in paragraph (1)(c) must be on file with  
89 the board, pursuant to rules adopted by the board.

90 (b) The applicant must demonstrate proof of malpractice  
91 insurance and a passing score on the Florida Laws and Rules  
92 examination administered by the Federation of State Boards of  
93 Physical Therapy.

94 (3) Submission of the application for a temporary permit  
95 to practice as a physical therapist assistant does not authorize  
96 an applicant to begin work as a physical therapist assistant. An  
97 applicant for a temporary permit shall not work as a physical  
98 therapist assistant until a temporary license is issued by the  
99 board.

100 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.