

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 for voiding of a temporary permit; providing
 8 requirements for the supervision of temporary
 9 permittees; amending s. 486.151, F.S.; prohibiting
 10 certain acts concerning temporary permits; providing
 11 an effective date.

12
 13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 15 Section 1. Section 486.0715, Florida Statutes, is created
 16 to read:

17 486.0715 Physical therapist; issuance of temporary
 18 permit.-

19 (1) The board shall issue a temporary physical therapist
 20 permit to an applicant who meets the following requirements:

21 (a) Completes an application for a temporary permit on a
 22 form approved by the department.

23 (b) Is a graduate of an approved United States physical
 24 therapy educational program and meets all the eligibility
 25 requirements for licensure under ch. 456, s. 486.031(1)-(3)(a),
 26 and related rules, except passage of a national examination
 27 approved by the board is not required.

28 (c) Submits an application for licensure under s. 486.041.

29 (d) Demonstrates proof of possessing malpractice
30 insurance.

31 (e) Submits documentation, under rules adopted by the
32 board, verifying that the applicant will practice under the
33 direct supervision of a licensed physical therapist as provided
34 in subsection (3).

35 (2) A temporary permit is not renewable and is valid until
36 a license is granted by the board. A temporary permit is void if
37 the permittee does not pass a national examination approved by
38 the board within 6 months after the date of graduation from a
39 physical therapy training program.

40 (3) An applicant for a temporary permit may not work as a
41 physical therapist until a temporary permit is issued by the
42 board. A physical therapist who is practicing under a temporary
43 permit must do so under the direct supervision of a licensed
44 physical therapist. A supervising physical therapist shall
45 supervise only one permittee at any given time. The supervising
46 physical therapist must be licensed for a minimum of 6 months
47 before the supervision period begins and must cosign all patient
48 records produced by the physical therapist who is practicing
49 under a temporary permit.

50 Section 2. Section 486.1065, Florida Statutes, is created
51 to read:

52 486.1065 Physical therapist assistant; issuance of
53 temporary permit.—

54 (1) The board shall issue a temporary physical therapist
55 assistant permit to an applicant who meets the following
56 requirements:

57 (a) Completes an application for a temporary permit on a
58 form approved by the department.

59 (b) Is a graduate of an approved United States physical
60 therapy assistant educational program and meets all the
61 eligibility requirements for licensure under ch. 456, s.
62 486.102(1)-(3)(a), and related rules, except passage of a
63 national examination approved by the board is not required.

64 (c) Submits an application for licensure under s. 486.103.

65 (d) Demonstrates proof of possessing malpractice
66 insurance.

67 (e) Submits documentation, under rules adopted by the
68 board, verifying that the applicant will practice under the
69 direct supervision of a licensed physical therapist as provided
70 in subsection (3).

71 (2) A temporary permit is not renewable and is valid until
72 a license is granted by the board. A temporary permit is void if
73 the permittee does not pass a national examination approved by
74 the board within 6 months after the date of graduation from a
75 physical therapy assistant training program.

76 (3) An applicant for a temporary permit may not work as a
77 physical therapist assistant until a temporary permit is issued
78 by the board. A physical therapist assistant who is practicing
79 under a temporary permit must do so under the direct supervision
80 of a licensed physical therapist. A supervising physical
81 therapist shall supervise only one permittee at any given time.
82 The supervising physical therapist must be licensed for a
83 minimum of 6 months before the supervision period begins and
84 must cosign all patient records produced by the physical

85 therapist assistant who is practicing under a temporary permit.

86 Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 486.151, Florida
87 Statutes, is amended to read:

88 486.151 Prohibited acts; penalty.—

89 (1) It is unlawful for any person to:

90 (a) Practice physical therapy or attempt to practice
91 physical therapy without an active license or temporary permit.

92 (b) Use or attempt to use a license or temporary permit to
93 practice physical therapy which is suspended, ~~or~~ revoked, or
94 void.

95 (c) Obtain or attempt to obtain a license or temporary
96 permit to practice physical therapy by fraudulent
97 misrepresentation.

98 (d) Use the name or title "Physical Therapist" or
99 "Physical Therapist Assistant" or any other name or title which
100 would lead the public to believe that the person using the name
101 or title is licensed to practice physical therapy, unless such
102 person holds a valid license.

103 (e) Make any willfully false oath or affirmation whenever
104 an oath or affirmation is required by this chapter.

105 (f) Knowingly conceal information relating to violations
106 of this chapter.

107 Section 4. This act shall take effect June 1, 2012.