

By Senator Braynon

36-00656-16

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to licensing requirements for physical  
3       therapist assistants; amending s. 486.102, F.S.;  
4       removing the enumeration of specific accrediting  
5       agencies for physical therapist assistant programs;  
6       providing an effective date.

7  
8   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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10       Section 1. Section 486.102, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
11       read:

12       486.102 Physical therapist assistant; licensing  
13       requirements.—To be eligible for licensing by the board as a  
14       physical therapist assistant, an applicant must:

15           (1) Be at least 18 years old;

16           (2) Be of good moral character; and

17           (3) (a) Have been graduated from a school that offers ~~giving~~  
18       a course of not less than 2 years for physical therapist  
19       assistants, which has been approved for the educational  
20       preparation of physical therapist assistants by the appropriate  
21       accrediting agency recognized by the Commission on Recognition  
22       of Postsecondary Accreditation or the United States Department  
23       of Education, ~~which includes, but is not limited to, any~~  
24       ~~regional or national institutional accrediting agencies~~  
25       ~~recognized by the United States Department of Education or the~~  
26       ~~Commission on Accreditation for Physical Therapy Education~~  
27       ~~(CAPTE),~~ at the time of the applicant's ~~her or his~~ graduation,  
28       and must have passed to the satisfaction of the board an  
29       examination to determine her or his fitness to ~~for~~ practice as a

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30 physical therapist assistant as ~~hereinafter~~ provided in this  
31 chapter;

32 (b) Have been graduated from a school that offers ~~giving~~ a  
33 course for physical therapist assistants in a foreign country,  
34 ~~and~~ must have educational credentials deemed equivalent to those  
35 required for the educational preparation of physical therapist  
36 assistants in this country, as recognized by the appropriate  
37 agency as identified by the board, and must have passed to the  
38 satisfaction of the board an examination to determine the  
39 applicant's ~~her or his~~ fitness to ~~for~~ practice as a physical  
40 therapist assistant as ~~hereinafter~~ provided in this chapter; or

41 (c) Be entitled to licensure without examination as  
42 provided in s. 486.107.

43 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.