

Chair Lyons and Deputy Secretary Hibbert,

I wanted to run by some feedback I received on H.77 (PT Compact), as passed the House, and suggested changes, if appropriate.

The Vermont Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association supports this bill. The feedback relates to a couple of specific provisions that would impact OPR so I looped in Deputy Secretary Hibbert to this email.

The bill as passed the House has a criminal background check section that looks to only apply to PTs and it should apply to both PTs and PTAs. I would defer to OPR to make the language work or if they think the language works, but wanted to raise the question.

The second item was more of a fee question around the privilege fee. This is the fee where the home state provider pays for the privilege to practice in Vermont. And some home states have an annual fee and the, as passed the house, indicates it as biennial. I'd want to make sure OPR gets the appropriate and timely fee and not miss out any fees due from the privilege fee. Again, I would defer to OPR to make the language work but wanted to raise the point.

I'm happy to chat with either of you at your convenience and will be in the room if comment is needed.

If you want any specific testimony directly from the Chapter - I am happy to arrange for Heidi Wilhem (President) or Michelle Downing or Julie Adams. All who are happy and hopefully available to testify at your convenience. The three testified in House Health Care.

Happy to chat at your convenience.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions.

Please see their specific comments below.

Jonathan Wolff

1. On page 33 of 34, in the amendment to 3 VSA 123 (j)(1), the added language in subparagraph (E) only references physical therapists. The criminal background check requirement must apply to both physical therapists AND physical therapist assistants.
 1. This addition needs to be added otherwise the board will not have the statutory authority to get FBI fingerprints for PTA applicants. In turn, Vermont would not be eligible to become an active compact state.
2. On page 34 of 34, the amendment to 3 VSA 125 states that an individual applying for a compact privilege shall pay a biennial \$50 privilege to practice fee. Since the length of a compact privilege is based on the home state license, the fee technically wouldn't be a biennial fee. In some cases, it will be an annual fee.
 1. Our team recommends modifying the language by deleting the word "biennial". The line would then read:

(C) Physical therapists and assistants, \$150, except that a licensee of a remote state under the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact established in 26 V.S.A. chapter 38, subchapter 5 shall pay a \$50.00 privilege to practice fee.

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