

**CHAPTER 411**

AN ACT to amend 147.02; and to repeal and recreate 147.185 of the statutes, relating to physical therapy.

*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

147.02 of the statutes is amended to read:

147.02 No person shall treat, or attempt to treat, the sick unless he shall have a certificate of registration in the basic sciences, and shall have recorded the same with the county clerk in the manner provided in s. 147.14, and shall have complied with all other requirements of law. This section shall not affect the exemptions provided by subs. (1) and (2) of s. 147.19, nor shall it be construed to require a certificate of registration in the basic sciences for the practice of nursing by persons registered under chapter 149 nor for the practice of physical therapy by persons registered under s. 147.185.

147.185 of the statutes is repealed and recreated to read:

147.185 PHYSICAL THERAPY. (1) PRACTICE OF PHYSICAL THERAPY. (a) The practice of physical therapy is the treatment of disease as defined in s. 147.01 by the use of physical, chemical and other properties of heat or cold, light, water, electricity, massage, and therapeutic exercises, including posture and rehabilitation procedures, but the use of Roentgen rays and radium for any purposes, and the use of electricity for surgical purposes, including cauterization, are not included in the practice of physical therapy.

(b) No person shall practice or hold himself out as authorized to practice physical therapy, nor shall any person designate himself as a physical therapist, physiotherapist, physical therapy, technician, or use the initials "P.T.," "P.T.T.," or "R.P.T." or any other letters, words, abbreviations, or insignia indicating that he is a physical therapist, without a certificate of registration issued by the board of medical examiners nor unless he practices under a prescription and the direct supervision of a person licensed to practice medicine and surgery. Nothing in this section shall prohibit any person licensed or registered, in this state, under another law, from engaging in the practice for which he is licensed or registered.

(2) APPLICATION. An applicant for a certificate of registration as a physical therapist shall file written application on forms provided by the board. The applicant shall present satisfactory evidence that he is at least 20 years of age, is of good moral character, has obtained a high school education or its equivalent, and has been graduated from a school of physical therapy with standards of education and training substantially equivalent to that of the University of Wisconsin. He shall pay to the board \$15 and present himself for examination at the first meeting thereafter at which examinations are to be held.

(3) EXAMINATION. The examination shall be both scientific and practical in the applied sciences of anatomy, neuroanatomy, kinesiology, physiology, pathology, psychology, physics, physical therapy, as defined in this section, applied to medicine, neurology, orthopedics, pediatrics, psychiatry, surgery and medical ethics, technical procedure in the practice of physical therapy, and such other subjects as the board may determine to be necessary. The board shall select a state examining committee for physical therapy, and may do so from a list submitted by the Wisconsin chapter of the American physical therapy association, to assist it in carrying out the provisions of this section, which committee shall consist of 3 physical therapists who, after the initial appointment, shall be registered by the board and shall have had not less than 3 years of experience in the practice of physical therapy in this state immediately preceding his appointment. The committee shall elect annually one of their members as president and another as secretary. They shall receive the same compensation and reimbursement as members of the board. The terms of office of the members first appointed shall continue for the following periods: one for 1 year, one for 2 years, and one for 3 years. Upon the expiration of such terms the board shall appoint a successor for a term of 3 years.

(4) CERTIFICATE. If the board finds the applicant qualified it shall issue a certificate of registration which shall expire on February 1 of each year and shall be renewed only upon application and the sending of a \$3 annual renewal fee to the secretary of the state examining committee for physical therapy on or before January 31. Upon receipt of such application, the examining committee shall send the application and fee to the board for renewal. A renewal fee of \$7 shall be paid by any physical therapist who seeks re-registration but who fails to renew his application on or before February 1 of any year. If the applicant has failed to renew his certificate for a period of at least 5 years, the board shall require the applicant to take a refresher course approved by the board before issuing a renewal certificate if after oral examination, the committee recommends to the

board that such refresher course is necessary. If the applicant for reregistration has been guilty of conduct that would afford a ground for revocation under s. 147.20 the board may so find and refuse to reregister such applicant.

(5) REGISTRATION WITHOUT EXAMINATION. The board may issue a certificate of registration without examination to any person who applies on or before December 31, 1953, and who furnishes the board with sufficient and satisfactory evidence that, on the effective date of this section he had practiced physical therapy in this state and possesses the prerequisites for examination set forth in sub. (2). The board may issue a certificate of registration in physical therapy without examination to an applicant who presents evidence satisfactory to the board of having been licensed or certified as a physical therapist in another state or foreign country with standards determined by the board to be as high as those of this state. At the time of making such application the applicant shall pay a fee of \$10. The board may also issue without examination a permit to practice physical therapy for not to exceed 6 months to any person who meets the qualifications of this section upon certification that he has been assigned to this state on a temporary basis to assist in a medical emergency and upon the payment of a \$2 permit fee.

(6) PREVIOUS PRACTICE OF MASSAGE AND HYDROTHERAPY. Any person who, on the effective date of this section, is practicing massage and hydrotherapy in this state under certificate of registration issued pursuant to the provisions of s. 147.185 as that section existed heretofore, shall have the right to continue so to practice under such certificate and the term "massage and hydrotherapy" shall be deemed to include the use of galvanic generator, diathermy, infra red ray, and ultra violet light for massage purposes. Nothing contained herein shall limit the existing authority of the board to revoke such certificate for cause, and in addition the board may require the holder of such certificate to demonstrate by examination his fitness to use the instrumentalities enumerated in this section. Lack of such fitness shall constitute cause for revocation of such certificate. No such certificate holder shall treat a specific disease except on the advice of a licensed medical physician.

(7) CHIROPRACTIC NOT AFFECTED. Nothing in this section shall be construed to restrict, inhibit or limit the practice of chiropractic as now practiced in Wisconsin, and as taught by accredited schools or colleges of chiropractic.

Approved July 2, 1953.

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