

Senate Executive Departments and Administration Committee

Deb Chroniak 271-1403

SB 212-FN, establishing the physical therapy licensure compact.

Hearing Date: February 8, 2017

Time Opened: 9:00 a.m.

Time Closed: 9:13 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Carson, Reagan, Gannon and Soucy

Members of the Committee Absent: Senator Woodburn

Bill Analysis: This bill adopts the physical therapy licensure compact, implemented by the physical therapy governing board.

Sponsors:

Sen. Soucy
Sen. Reagan

Sen. Carson
Rep. Cilley

Sen. Gannon

Who supports the bill: Senator Donna Soucy, Senate District 18; Senator Sharon Carson, Senate District 14; Senator Bill Gannon, Senate District 23; Senator John Reagan, Senate District 17; Maggie Donohue, Physical Therapist; Joseph Shanley, Jr., Physical Therapy Governing Board; Deirdre Daley, President, New Hampshire Physical Therapy Association, New Ipswich, New Hampshire; Paula Minnehan, New Hampshire Hospital Association

Who opposes the bill: No one

Who is neutral on the bill: No one

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Senator Donna Soucy (testimony provided):

- Legislation was requested for her to sponsor.
- Purpose is to facilitate interstate practice of physical therapy with the goal of improving public access to physical therapy services.
- Compact achieves the following objectives: (1) increase public access to PT services in New Hampshire; (2) enhances New Hampshire's ability to protect public health and safety; (3) supports military members who are relocating; (4) enhances the exchange of licensure, disciplinary and investigative information between member states; and, would allow a remote state to hold a provider of

services with a compact privilege in the State of New Hampshire accountable to New Hampshire's practice standards.

- Bordering states that have facilities in multiple states would benefit from mobility for therapists; therapists would obtain licenses expeditiously.
- Four states have passed this legislation; Oregon, Missouri, Tennessee and Arizona. Other states are considering.

Joseph Shanley, Jr., Physical Therapy Governing Board member (in support):

- Speaking on behalf of the Licensure Compact the Board is in support of adoption.
- Has been a member of the Board since 2015, also sat on Rules Identification Task Force for the Physical Therapy Compact of the Federation of State Boards as the New Hampshire representative assisting in making sure language was clear.
- Here to answer questions.

Senator Carson said she saw in the legislation where it mentions "joint investigations, and on page 5, line 38, Roman VII states, "Establishment of the Physical Therapy Compact Commission". She asked what this Commission would be responsible for. Mr. Shanley stated that the Commission is made up of member states, so each state will have a member on this Commission to assist in the dissemination of information between the states for the maintenance of the database of shared information. All rules and regulations stay within the state. The Commission does not write rules dictating what states will do. **Senator Carson** went on to ask about educational requirements and what would happen if one state wanted to increase the educational requirements, would New Hampshire be required to do the same. Mr. Shanley said no, because it is each individual state which sets their requirements. **Senator Carson** went on and stated if a physical therapist from New Hampshire moved to Montana, who has a higher educational requirement, would the physical therapist from New Hampshire have to meet their requirements. Mr. Shanley stated that your home state of record is what you would follow. You need a home state in order to have licensure.

Deirdre Dailey, President, New Hampshire Physical Therapy Association, from New Ipswich, New Hampshire (in support):

- This is a good thing for people who work on the borders of states.
- Good for a military spouse who moves frequently.
- Currently is licensed in three states due to military moves.
- This will help reduce this burden.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: No one

Summary of testimony provide in neutral position: No one

Hearing closed at 9:13 a.m.

Future Action: Ought to Pass

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Date Hearing Report completed: February 9, 2017

[SB0212-FN-F]