

1 AN ACT concerning professional regulation.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Illinois Physical Therapy Act is amended by  
5 changing Sections 8 and 8.1 as follows:

6 (225 ILCS 90/8) (from Ch. 111, par. 4258)

7 (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2006)

8 Sec. 8. Qualifications for licensure as a Physical  
9 Therapist.

10 (a) A person is qualified to receive a license as a  
11 physical therapist if that person has applied in writing, on  
12 forms prescribed by the Department, has paid the required fees,  
13 and meets all of the following requirements:

14 (1) He or she is at least 18 years of age and of good  
15 moral character. In determining moral character, the  
16 Department may take into consideration any felony  
17 conviction of the applicant, but such a conviction shall  
18 not operate automatically as a complete bar to a license.

19 (2) He or she must have a post-baccalaureate degree  
20 from a college or university physical therapy education  
21 program approved by the Commission on Accreditation in  
22 Physical Therapy Education. A person who graduated from a  
23 physical therapy program outside the United States or its  
24 territories must submit evidence that his or her  
25 educational background is substantially equivalent to a  
26 post-baccalaureate degree from a Commission on  
27 Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education approved  
28 physical therapy educational program and conferred by a  
29 regionally accredited college or university in the United  
30 States. He or she has graduated from a curriculum in  
31 physical therapy approved by the Department. In approving a  
32 curriculum in physical therapy, the Department shall

1 ~~consider, but not be bound by, accreditation by the~~  
2 ~~Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education.~~  
3 ~~A person who graduated from a physical therapy program~~  
4 ~~outside the United States or its territories shall have his~~  
5 ~~or her degree validated as equivalent to a physical therapy~~  
6 ~~degree conferred by a regionally accredited college or~~  
7 ~~university in the United States.~~ The Department may  
8 establish by rule a method for the completion of course  
9 deficiencies.

10 (3) He or she has passed an examination approved by the  
11 Department to determine his fitness for practice as a  
12 physical therapist, or is entitled to be licensed without  
13 examination as provided in Sections 10 and 11 of this Act.  
14 A person who graduated from a physical therapy program  
15 outside the United States or its territories and whose  
16 first language is not English shall submit certification of  
17 passage of the Test of English as a Foreign Language  
18 (TOEFL) and the Test of Spoken English (TSE) as defined by  
19 rule prior to taking the licensure examination.

20 (b) The Department reserves the right and may request a  
21 personal interview of an applicant before the Committee to  
22 further evaluate his or her qualifications for a license.

23 (Source: P.A. 91-357, eff. 7-29-99.)

24 (225 ILCS 90/8.1) (from Ch. 111, par. 4258.1)

25 (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2006)

26 Sec. 8.1. Qualifications for licensure as a physical  
27 therapist assistant. A person is qualified to receive a license  
28 as a physical therapist assistant if that person has applied in  
29 writing, on forms prescribed by the Department, has paid the  
30 required fees and:

31 (1) Is at least 18 years of age and of good moral  
32 character. In determining moral character, the Department  
33 may take into consideration any felony conviction of the  
34 applicant, but such a conviction shall not operate  
35 automatically as a complete bar to a license;

1           (2) Has graduated from a 2 year college-level physical  
2 therapist ~~therapy~~ assistant program accredited by the  
3 Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education.  
4 A person who graduated from a physical therapy assistant  
5 program outside the United States or its territories must  
6 submit evidence that his or her educational background is  
7 substantially equivalent to a Commission on Accreditation  
8 in Physical Therapy Education program and conferred by a  
9 regionally accredited college or university in the United  
10 States. ~~approved by the Department. In approving such a~~  
11 ~~physical therapist assistant program the Department shall~~  
12 ~~consider but not be bound by accreditation by the~~  
13 ~~Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education.~~  
14 ~~Any person who graduated from a physical therapy assistant~~  
15 ~~program outside the United States or its territories shall~~  
16 ~~have his or her degree validated as equivalent to a~~  
17 ~~physical therapy assistant degree conferred by a~~  
18 ~~regionally accredited college or university in the United~~  
19 ~~States.~~ The Department may establish by rule a method for  
20 the completion of course deficiencies; and

21           (3) Has successfully completed the examination  
22 authorized by the Department. A person who graduated from a  
23 physical therapy assistant program outside the United  
24 States or its territories and whose first language is not  
25 English shall submit certification of passage of the Test  
26 of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and the Test of  
27 Spoken English (TSE) as defined by rule prior to taking the  
28 licensure examination.

29 (Source: P.A. 89-387, eff. 1-1-96.)

30           Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
31 becoming law.