By: Representative Fredericks

To: Public Health and Welfare

HOUSE BILL NO. 1308

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 73-23-41, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CREATE THE STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY AND PRESCRIBE ITS 3 POWERS AND DUTIES; TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF THE BOARD; TO AMEND SECTION 73-23-45, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CREATE A SPECIAL FUND IN THE STATE TREASURY TO BE KNOWN AS THE PHYSICAL THERAPY FUND, FOR THE DEPOSIT OF ALL FEES AND OTHER MONIES 7 COLLECTED OR RECEIVED BY THE BOARD; TO AMEND SECTION 73-23-65, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO ABOLISH THE PHYSICAL THERAPY ADVISORY 8 COUNCIL AND TO TRANSFER THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE STATE BOARD 9 OF HEALTH AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH REGARDING THE 10 LICENSURE AND REGULATION OF THE PROFESSION OF PHYSICAL THERAPY TO 11 THE STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY; TO AMEND SECTIONS 73-23-33, 12 73-23-35, 73-23-43, 73-23-47, 73-23-49, 73-23-51, 73-23-53, 73-23-57, 73-23-61, 73-23-63 AND 73-23-64, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CONFORM TO THE PRECEDING PROVISIONS; TO REPEAL SECTION 13 14 15 73-23-55, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH PROVIDED FOR THE 16 LICENSING OF PHYSICAL THERAPISTS WHO WERE LICENSED UNDER 17 18 PREVIOUSLY REPEALED STATUTES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES. 19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI: SECTION 1. Section 73-23-41, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 2.0 amended as follows: 21 73-23-41. (1) There is established a State Board of 22 23 Physical Therapy that shall consist of seven (7) members appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate. At 24 least four (4) members shall be appointed from a list of five (5) 25 persons submitted by the Mississippi Physical Therapy Association, 26 all of whom must be residents of Mississippi and must have engaged 27 in the practice of physical therapy within the state for at least 28 four (4) years. Four (4) members shall be physical therapists, 29 30 one (1) member shall be a physical therapist assistant, one (1) member shall be a physician, and one (1) member shall be a 31 32 consumer at large who is not associated with or financially interested in the practice or business of physical therapy. The 33 initial members of the board shall be appointed for staggered 34 terms, as follows: Two (2) members shall be appointed for a term 35

- that ends on June 30, 2003; two (2) members shall be appointed for
- 37 terms that end on June 30, 2004; one (1) member shall be appointed
- 38 for a term that ends on June 30, 2005; and two (2) members shall
- 39 be appointed for terms that end on June 30, 2006. All subsequent
- 40 appointments to the board shall be for terms of four (4) years
- 41 from the expiration date of the previous term. No person shall be
- 42 appointed for more than two (2) consecutive terms. By approval of
- 43 the majority of the board, the service of a member may be extended
- 44 at the completion of a four-year term until a new member is
- 45 appointed or the current member is reappointed.
- 46 (2) The board shall annually elect a chairman, secretary and
- 47 treasurer. The board shall provide for the timely orientation and
- 48 training of new professional and public appointees to the board
- 49 regarding board licensing and disciplinary procedures, this
- 50 chapter and board rules, regulations, policies and procedures. A
- 51 member may be removed by the board only for cause. Failure to
- 52 attend at least half of the board meetings in a fiscal year shall
- 53 constitute cause. The board shall meet at least once each
- 54 quarter, and those meetings shall be held in compliance with the
- 55 Open Meetings Law (Section 25-41-1 et seq.). A majority of board
- 56 members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
- 57 The board shall keep an official record of its meetings.
- 58 Vacancies on the board shall be filled by board member vote from a
- 59 list of nominees submitted by the Mississippi Physical Therapy
- 60 Association. Members of the board shall receive the per diem
- 61 authorized under Section 25-3-69 for each day spent actually
- 62 discharging their official duties, and shall receive reimbursement
- 63 for mileage and necessary travel expenses incurred as provided in
- 64 Section 25-3-41. A board member who acts within the scope of
- 65 board duties, without <u>malice and in the reasonable belief that the</u>
- 66 member's action is warranted by law is immune from civil
- 67 <u>liability.</u>



- 68 SECTION 2. Section 73-23-33, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 69 amended as follows:
- 70 73-23-33. As used in this chapter unless the context or
- 71 subject matter otherwise requires:
- 72 (a) "Physical therapy" or "physiotherapy," which terms
- 73 are deemed identical and interchangeable, means the art and
- 74 science of a health specialty concerned with the prevention of
- 75 disability, and the physical rehabilitation for congenital or
- 76 acquired physical or mental disabilities, resulting from or
- 77 secondary to injury or disease. The "practice of physical
- 78 therapy" means the practice of the health specialty and
- 79 encompasses physical therapy evaluation, treatment planning,
- 80 treatment administration, instruction and consultative services,
- 81 including:
- 82 (i) Performing and interpreting tests and
- 83 measurements as an aid to physical therapy treatment, for the
- 84 purpose of correcting or alleviating any physical condition and to
- 85 prevent the development of any physical or mental disability
- 86 within the scope of physical therapy; and the performance of
- 87 neuromuscular-skeletal tests and measurements as an aid in
- 88 diagnosis, evaluation or determination of the existence of and the
- 89 extent of any body malfunction;
- 90 (ii) Planning initial and subsequent treatment
- 91 programs, on the basis of test findings; and
- 92 (iii) Administering treatment by therapeutic
- 93 exercise, neurodevelopmental procedures, therapeutic massage,
- 94 mechanical devices and therapeutic agents which employ the
- 95 physical, chemical and other properties of air, water, heat, cold,
- 96 electricity, sound and radiant energy for the purpose of
- 97 correcting or alleviating any physical condition or preventing the
- 98 development of any physical or mental disability. The use of
- 99 roentgen rays and radium for any purpose, and the use of

100 electricity for surgical purposes including cauterization, are not

101 part of physical therapy;

102 (b) "Physical therapist" means a person licensed in

103 this state to practice physical therapy as defined in this

104 chapter, and whose license is in good standing;

105 (c) "Physical therapist assistant" means a health care

106 worker who assists a physical therapist in the provision of

107 physical therapy under the direct, on-site supervision of the

physical therapist. The physical therapist assistant may perform

109 physical therapy procedures and related tasks that have been

110 selected and delegated by the supervising physical therapist, but

111 shall not perform the following physical therapy activities:

112 interpretation of referrals; physical therapy initial evaluation

and reevaluation; identification, determination or modification of

114 plans of care (including goals and treatment programs); final

115 discharge assessment/evaluation or establishment of the discharge

116 plan; or therapeutic techniques beyond the skill and knowledge of

117 the physical therapist assistant;

118 (d) "Referral" means the written or oral designation of

119 physical therapy services by a doctor of medicine, dentistry,

osteopathy, podiatry or chiropractic, or by a nurse practitioner,

121 holding a license in good standing; and the instruction therefor

122 may be as detailed or as general as the doctor or nurse

123 practitioner in his or her sound discretion deems necessary in the

124 particular case;

125 (e) "Board" means the State Board of Physical Therapy

126 established in Section 73-23-41;

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128 (f) "Direct, on-site supervision" means face-to-face

129 oversight by a licensed physical therapist at regular intervals,

130 as prescribed in regulations adopted by the board, of the services

131 provided to a patient by a licensed physical therapist assistant.

- 132 <u>(g)</u> "Direct supervision" means face-to-face oversight
- 133 at regular intervals of a physical therapist issued a temporary
- 134 license under Section 73-23-53(1) by a licensed physical
- 135 therapist. Such direct supervision shall be in accordance with
- 136 the regulations adopted by the board.
- SECTION 3. Section 73-23-35, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 138 amended as follows:
- 139 73-23-35. It shall be unlawful for any person, corporation
- 140 or association to, in any manner, represent himself or itself as a
- 141 physical therapist, a physical therapist assistant or someone who
- 142 provides physical therapy services, or use in connection with his
- 143 or its name the words or letters physiotherapist, registered
- 144 physical therapist, R.P.T., licensed physical therapist assistant,
- 145 L.P.T.A., or any other letters, words, abbreviations or insignia,
- 146 indicating or implying that he or it is a physical therapist, a
- 147 physical therapist assistant or provides physical therapy
- 148 services, without a valid existing license as a physical therapist
- 149 or as a physical therapist assistant, as the case may be, issued
- 150 to him or it pursuant to this chapter. It shall be unlawful to
- 151 employ an unlicensed physical therapist or physical therapist
- 152 assistant to provide physical therapy services.
- The board shall aid the state's attorneys of the various
- 154 counties in the enforcement of the provisions of this chapter and
- 155 the prosecution of any violations thereof. In addition to the
- 156 criminal penalties provided by this chapter, the civil remedy of
- 157 injunction shall be available to restrain and enjoin violations of
- 158 any provisions of this chapter without proof of actual damages
- 159 sustained by any person.
- SECTION 4. Section 73-23-43, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 161 amended as follows:
- 162 73-23-43. (1) The <u>board</u> shall have the following general
- 163 powers and duties:



164	(a) To examine and determine the qualifications and
165	fitness of applicants for licenses to practice physical therapy
166	and licenses to act as physical therapist assistants in this state
167	and prepare or approve and conduct all examinations of applicants
168	for licensure:

- 169 (b) To issue, renew, deny, suspend or revoke licenses
 170 to practice physical therapy and licenses to act as physical
 171 therapist assistants in this state or otherwise discipline
 172 licensed physical therapists and physical therapist assistants;
- To investigate alleged or suspected violations of 173 174 the provisions of this chapter or other laws of this state pertaining to physical therapy and any rules and regulations 175 adopted by the board; for this purpose, any authorized agents of 176 177 the board shall have the power and right to enter and make reasonable inspections of any place where physical therapy is 178 practiced, and may inspect and/or copy any records pertaining to 179 clients or the practice of physical therapy under this chapter; 180
- (d) To establish reasonable fees for application for examination, certificates of licensure and renewal, and other services provided by the board;
- (e) To adopt, amend or repeal any rules or regulations
 necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter and the duties
 and responsibilities of the * * * board, in accordance with
 Section 25-43-1 et seq.;
- 188 (f) To hire appropriate support personnel to carry out 189 the provisions of this chapter.
- The powers and duties enumerated above are granted for the purpose of enabling the <u>board</u> to safeguard the public health, safety and welfare against unqualified or incompetent practitioners of physical therapy and persons acting as physical therapist assistants, and are to be liberally construed to accomplish this objective;



- The board shall maintain a register listing the name of 196 every physical therapist and physical therapist assistant licensed 197 to practice in this state, his last known place of business and 198 199 last known place of residence, and the date and number of his 200 The board shall, at least once a year, compile a list of physical therapists and physical therapist assistants licensed to 201 practice in this state and such a list shall be available to any 202 person upon application to the board and the payment of such 203 204 charges as may be fixed by it.
- 205 **SECTION 5.** Section 73-23-45, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 206 amended as follows:
- 207 73-23-45. All fees and other monies collected or received by 208 the board shall be paid into and credited to a special fund that 209 is created in the State Treasury, which shall be known as the "Physical Therapy Fund." Any interest earned on the special fund 210 shall be credited to the special fund and shall not be paid into 211 the State General Fund. Any unexpended monies remaining in the 212 213 special fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not lapse into the State General Fund. Monies in the special fund shall be expended, 214 215 upon appropriation by the Legislature, exclusively for the
- upon appropriation by the Legislature, exclusively for the
- 216 purposes of implementing the provisions of this chapter.
- 217 Disbursement of monies in the special fund shall be made only upon
- 218 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer upon requisitions
- 219 signed by the treasurer of the board. The financial records of
- 220 the board shall be audited annually by the State Auditor.
- 221 **SECTION 6.** Section 73-23-47, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 222 amended as follows:
- 223 73-23-47. Any person who desires to be licensed under this
- 224 chapter and who: (a) is of good moral character; (b) has been
- 225 graduated from a physical therapy or physical therapist assistant
- 226 program, as the case may be, accredited by an agency recognized by
- 227 the United States Department of Education, Office on Postsecondary
- 228 Education; and (c) has paid an application fee not to exceed

- 229 double the price of the examination, no part of which shall be
- 230 refunded, shall be examined for licensure by the board. The
- 231 licensure examination for physical therapists and for physical
- 232 therapist assistants shall be selected by the board and may also
- 233 include an oral examination or practical examination or both at
- 234 the discretion of the board.
- Each application or filing made under this section shall
- 236 include the social security number(s) of the applicant in
- 237 accordance with Section 93-11-64.
- 238 SECTION 7. Section 73-23-49, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 239 amended as follows:
- 240 73-23-49. Any person who desires to be licensed as a
- 241 physical therapist or as a physical therapist assistant shall
- 242 apply to the \underline{board} in writing on a form furnished by the \underline{board} .
- 243 He shall provide such documents as required by the application
- 244 forms provided by the board. He shall pay the board at the time
- 245 of filing an application fee fixed annually by the board but not
- 246 to exceed Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00), no part of which shall be
- 247 refunded.
- SECTION 8. Section 73-23-51, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 249 amended as follows:
- 73-23-51. (1) The board may license as a physical therapist
- 251 or as a physical therapist assistant, and furnish a certificate of
- 252 licensure without examination to, any applicant who presents
- 253 evidence, satisfactory to the board, of having passed an
- 254 examination before a similar lawfully authorized examining agency
- 255 or board in physical therapy of another state or the District of
- 256 Columbia, if the standards for registration in physical therapy or
- 257 for licensure as a physical therapist assistant in such other
- 258 state or district are determined by the board to be as high as
- 259 those of this state.
- 260 (2) Any person who has been trained as a physical therapist
- in a foreign country and desires to be licensed under this chapter

and who: (a) is of good moral character; (b) holds a diploma from 262 263 an educational program for physical therapists approved by the board; (c) submits documentary evidence to the board that he has 264 265 completed a course of professional instruction substantially 266 equivalent to that obtained by an applicant for licensure; and (d) demonstrates satisfactory proof of proficiency in the English 267 language, may make application on a form furnished by the board 268 269 for examination as a foreign-trained physical therapist. At the 270 time of making such application, the applicant shall pay the fee prescribed by the board, no portion of which shall be returned. 271 272 Any person who desires to be licensed under this subsection shall take an examination approved by the board and shall obtain a 273 274 permanent license. If this requirement is not met, the license of

SECTION 9. Section 73-23-53, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

the foreign-trained therapist may be revoked.

(1) A temporary license to practice as a physical 73-23-53. therapist or physical therapist assistant may be granted to those persons meeting the requirements stated in Section 73-23-47 and who (a) have not taken the approved examination, or (b) have taken the approved examination but have not received the results of the examination. The temporary license shall be granted for a period not to exceed ninety (90) days. Any physical therapist granted a temporary license under the provisions of this subsection shall restrict his practice to the State of Mississippi and shall be under the direct supervision of a physical therapist licensed in Mississippi (physical therapy assistants shall be under the direct on-site supervision of a Mississippi licensed physical therapist). Documentation verifying the supervision shall be on file with the board before a temporary license is granted.

(2) A temporary license to practice physical therapy or to act as a physical therapist assistant may be granted to a physical therapist or a physical therapist assistant licensed in another H. B. No. 1308

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- 295 state who is moving into the state, provided the application for
- 296 Mississippi licensure is pending and the current license is in
- 297 good standing. This temporary license will be granted for a
- 298 period not to exceed sixty (60) days.
- 299 (3) Any person granted a temporary license who is required
- 300 to take the approved examination and fails to take the exam as
- 301 required by the board or does not pass the required exam shall
- 302 have the temporary license revoked and a license of any type shall
- 303 not be issued until such person has passed an approved
- 304 examination.
- 305 (4) Any person who has taken but not passed the required
- 306 examination in this or another jurisdiction shall not be eligible
- 307 for a license of any type until an approved examination is passed.
- 308 (5) Any person who has been trained as a physical therapist
- 309 or physical therapist assistant in a foreign country and desires
- 310 to be temporarily licensed under this subsection shall demonstrate
- 311 proficiency in the English language and meet the other
- 312 requirements of Section 73-23-51(2) before such temporary license
- 313 shall be issued.
- 314 **SECTION 10.** Section 73-23-57, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 315 amended as follows:
- 316 73-23-57. (1) Every licensed physical therapist and
- 317 physical therapist assistant shall apply to the <u>board</u> for a
- 318 renewal of licensure in a manner prescribed by the rules and
- 319 regulations of the board, and pay the prescribed fee, not to
- 320 exceed Seventy-five Dollars (\$75.00) per year, or One Hundred
- 321 Fifty Dollars (\$150.00) every two (2) years. Licenses that are
- 322 not so renewed shall automatically lapse.
- 323 (2) The manner in which lapsed licenses shall be revived or
- 324 extended shall be established by the board.
- 325 **SECTION 11.** Section 73-23-61, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 326 amended as follows:



73-23-61. (1) Each violation of Section 73-23-35 shall be 327 punishable by a fine of not less than One Hundred Dollars 328 (\$100.00) nor more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), or by 329 imprisonment for not less than ten (10) days nor more than sixty 330 331 (60) days, or both such fine and imprisonment. Any person who shall knowingly make a material, false 332 statement in his application for license under this chapter or in 333 response to any inquiry by * * * the board, shall be fined not 334 less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) nor more than Five Hundred 335 Dollars (\$500.00) or imprisoned for not less than ten (10) days 336 337 nor more than sixty (60) days, or both such fine and imprisonment. SECTION 12. Section 73-23-63, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 338 339 amended as follows: 340 73-23-63. (1) Any person whose application for a license is denied shall be entitled to a hearing before the board if he 341 342 submits a written request to the board. Such hearing shall be conducted at the earliest possible date. * * * The board shall 343 344 fix a time and place for the hearing and shall cause a written

denied shall be entitled to a hearing before the board if he
submits a written request to the board. Such hearing shall be
conducted at the earliest possible date. * * * The board shall
fix a time and place for the hearing and shall cause a written
copy of the reason for denial of the license, together with a
notice of the time and place fixed for the hearing to be served on
the applicant requesting the hearing * * *. Service of and notice
of the hearing may be given by certified mail to the last known
address of the licensee or applicant. For purposes of the
hearing, the board * * * shall have the power to subpoena persons
and compel the production of records, papers and other documents.

- 352 (2) (a) All complaints concerning a licensee's business or 353 professional practice shall be received by the board. Each 354 complaint received shall be logged, recording at a minimum the 355 following information: (i) licensee's name; (ii) name of the 356 complaining party, if known; (iii) date of complaint; (iv) brief 357 statement of complaint; and (v) disposition.
- 358 (b) Following the investigative process, the board may
 359 file formal charges against the licensee. Such formal complaint
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360	shall,	at	а	minimum,	inform	the	licensee	of	the	facts	which	are

- 361 the basis of the charge and which are specific enough to enable
- 362 the licensee to defend against the charges.
- 363 (c) Each licensee whose conduct is the subject of a
- 364 formal charge which seeks to impose disciplinary action against
- 365 the licensee shall be served notice of the formal charge at least
- 366 thirty (30) days before the date of the hearing, which hearing
- 367 shall be presided over by the board or the board's designee.
- 368 Service shall be considered to have been given if the notice was
- 369 personally received by the licensee or if the notice was mailed
- 370 certified, return receipt requested, to the licensee at the
- 371 licensee's last known address as listed with the state agency.
- 372 (d) The notice of the formal charge shall consist at a
- 373 minimum of the following information:
- 374 (i) The time, place and date of the hearing;
- 375 (ii) That the licensee shall appear personally at
- 376 the hearing and may be represented by counsel;
- 377 (iii) That the licensee shall have the right to
- 378 produce witnesses and evidence in the licensee's behalf and shall
- 379 have the right to cross-examine adverse witnesses and evidence;
- 380 (iv) That the hearing could result in disciplinary
- 381 action being taken against the licensee's license;
- 382 (v) That rules for the conduct of these hearings
- 383 exist and it may be in the licensee's best interest to obtain a
- 384 copy;
- 385 (vi) That the board or its designee shall preside
- 386 at the hearing and following the conclusion of the hearing shall
- 387 make findings of facts, conclusions of law and recommendations,
- 388 separately stated, to the board as to what disciplinary action, if
- 389 any, should be imposed on the licensee;
- 390 (vii) The board or its designee shall hear
- 391 evidence produced in support of the formal charges and contrary

392 evidence produced by the licensee. At the conclusion of the

- 393 hearing, the board shall issue an order; and
- 394 (viii) All proceedings pursuant to this section
- 395 are matters of public record and shall be preserved pursuant to
- 396 state law.
- 397 (3) In addition to other remedies provided by law or in
- 398 equity, any applicant or licensee aggrieved by any action of the
- 399 board may appeal the action of the board to the chancery court of
- 400 the county of his residence, if he be a resident of this state, or
- 401 the Chancery Court of the First Judicial District of Hinds County,
- 402 Mississippi, if he be a nonresident of this state, and the court
- 403 after a hearing may modify, affirm or reverse the judgment of the
- 404 board or may remand the case to the board for further proceedings.
- 405 An appeal shall be filed within thirty (30) days immediately
- 406 following the mailing or delivery to the applicant or licensee of
- 407 a copy of the order of judgment of the board, unless the court,
- 408 for good cause shown, extends the time. Appeals may be had to the
- 409 Supreme Court of the State of Mississippi as provided by law from
- 410 any final judgment of the chancery court. If the board appeals
- 411 from any judgment of the chancery court, no bond shall be required
- 412 of it in order to perfect its appeal. Any appeal of a license
- 413 suspension that is required by Section 93-11-157 or 93-11-163
- 414 shall be taken in accordance with the appeal procedure specified
- 415 in Section 93-11-157 or 93-11-163, as the case may be, rather than
- 416 the procedure specified in this section.
- 417 **SECTION 13.** Section 73-23-64, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 418 amended as follows:
- 73-23-64. (1) The board may impose any of the following
- 420 sanctions, singly or in combination, when it finds that a licensee
- 421 is guilty of any such offense:
- 422 (a) Revocation of the license;
- (b) Suspension of the license, for any period of time;
- 424 (c) Censure the licensee;

- (d) Impose a monetary penalty of not more than Two 426 Hundred Dollars (\$200.00);
- (e) Place a licensee on probationary status and require
- 428 the licensee to submit to any of the following: (i) report
- 429 regularly to the board, or its designee, upon matters which are
- 430 the basis of probation; (ii) continue to renew professional
- 431 education until a satisfactory degree of skill has been attained
- 432 in those areas which are the basis of probation; or (iii) such
- 433 other reasonable requirements or restrictions as are proper;
- (f) Refuse to renew a license; or
- 435 (g) Revoke probation which has been granted and impose
- 436 any other disciplinary action in this subsection when the
- 437 requirements of probation have not been fulfilled or have been
- 438 violated.
- 439 (2) The board may summarily suspend a license under this
- 440 chapter without a hearing simultaneously with the filing of a
- 441 formal complaint and notice for a hearing provided under this
- 442 section if the board finds that the continued practice in the
- 443 profession would constitute an immediate danger to the public. If
- 444 the board suspends summarily a license under the provisions of
- 445 this subsection, a hearing must begin within twenty (20) days
- 446 after such suspension begins, unless continued at the request of
- 447 the licensee.
- (3) Disposition of any formal complaint may be made by
- 449 consent order or stipulation between the board and the licensee.
- 450 (4) The board may reinstate any licensee to good standing
- 451 under this chapter if, after hearing, the board is satisfied that
- 452 the applicant's renewed practice is in the public interest. The
- 453 procedure for the reimbursement of a license that is suspended for
- 454 being out of compliance with an order for support, as defined in
- 455 Section 93-11-153, shall be governed by Section 93-11-157 or
- 456 93-11-163, as the case may be.
- **4**57 *** * ***

458	(5) The board shall seek to achieve consistency in the
459	application of the foregoing sanctions, and significant departure
460	from prior decisions involving similar conduct shall be explained
461	by the board.
462	SECTION 14. Section 73-23-65, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
463	amended as follows:
464	73-23-65. The * * * Physical Therapy Advisory Council is
465	abolished. All of the powers and duties of the State Board of
466	Health and the State Department of Health regarding the licensure
467	and regulation of the profession of physical therapy in the State
468	of Mississippi are transferred to the State Board of Physical
469	Therapy. Any property, contractual rights and obligations and
470	unexpended funds of the State Board of Health and the State
471	Department of Health relating to the licensure and regulation of
472	the profession of physical therapy in the State of Mississippi are
473	transferred to * * * the State Board of Physical Therapy.
474	SECTION 15. Section 73-23-55, Mississippi Code of 1972,
475	which provided for the licensing of physical therapists who were
476	licensed under previously repealed statutes, is repealed.
477	SECTION 16. This act shall take effect and be in force from

and after July 1, 2002.

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