

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 640

PRINTER NO. 1345

AMOUNT

See Fiscal Impact

FUND

Professional Licensure Augmentation Account

DATE INTRODUCED

May 10, 2019

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Boscola

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 640 establishes the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact Act, which grants the Governor authority to execute a physical therapy compact (compact) with any one or more states of the United States.

The purpose of the compact is to facilitate interstate practice of physical therapy with the goal of improving access to physical therapy services. The compact regulates the practice of a physical therapist or physical therapy assistant working in another compact member state under the other state's laws and rules.

The Physical Therapy Compact Commission (commission) is the national administrative body whose membership consists of all states that have enacted the compact and are responsible for the oversight of the compact. The commission is responsible for performing functions necessary to achieve the purposes of the compact, which includes establishing bylaws, maintaining financial records, promulgating uniform rules to implement and administer the compact and bringing and prosecuting legal proceedings.

Under Senate Bill 640, the compact becomes operative and in effect between Pennsylvania and other states when the Governor executes the compact on behalf of the Commonwealth and files a verified copy with the Secretary of the Commonwealth. The Secretary of the Commonwealth must publish a notice in the Pennsylvania Bulletin that includes the date on which the compact becomes effective.

This act shall take effect immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT

The compact is currently operational with sixteen member states actively issuing and accepting compact privileges. Several states have enacted compact legislation and will begin to issue and accept compact privileges over the course of the next year.

The commission has the authority to levy and collect an assessment from each compact member state or impose fees to cover the cost of operations and activities of the commission. Currently there is no assessment on the member state licensing

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boards, and the commission reports that there are no plans on implementing one in the immediate future. There is a \$45 fee, which is uniformly applied to licensee and certification holders in all member states, and is utilized by the commission to support its administration and operation expenses. Member state licensing boards have the option to impose an additional fee charged for issuing each compact privilege. This fee to purchase compact privilege varies from state to state. A licensee or certification holder will pay an average of \$97 in additional fees per each member state if they choose to participate in interstate practice under the commission’s jurisdiction.

	State Fee	Commission Fee	Total Fee
Arizona	\$0	\$45	\$45
Colorado	\$50	\$45	\$95
Iowa	\$60	\$45	\$105
Kentucky	\$50	\$45	\$95
Louisiana	\$95	\$45	\$140
Mississippi	\$150	\$45	\$195
Missouri	\$20	\$45	\$65
Nebraska	\$35	\$45	\$80
New Hampshire	\$65	\$45	\$110
North Carolina	\$52	\$45	\$97
North Dakota	\$40	\$45	\$85
Oregon	\$50	\$45	\$95
Tennessee	\$25	\$45	\$70
Texas	\$50	\$45	\$95
Utah	\$47	\$45	\$92
Washington	\$45	\$45	\$90

The current fees charged by the Pennsylvania State Board of Physical Therapy are listed below:

Physical Therapist

Application for licensure by examination/endorsement	\$30
Application for licensure through foreign training	\$45
Verification of licensure or temporary permit	\$15
Certification of examination scores or licensure	\$25
Temporary license	\$15
Biennial renewal	\$90
Application for certificate to practice physical therapy without a referral	\$30
Biennial renewal of certificate to practice physical therapy without a referral	\$45
Application for approval of continuing education provider or program	\$40
Application for reactivation of inactive license	\$30

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Physical Therapist Assistant

Initial application for certification by exam or endorsement	\$30
Certification of examination scores or certification	\$25
Biennial renewal	\$45
Verification of certification	\$15
Initial application for certification to provide services under indirect supervision	\$30
Application for temporary certification	\$15
Application for reactivation of inactive certification	\$30

The Department of State anticipates minimal cost to implement Senate Bill 640 as the objectives of the compact align with the portability of out-of-state licenses and the expansion of the process of issuing licenses by endorsement as mandated by Act 41 of 2019. The professional licensure boards and commissions began implementing the requirements of Act 41 in August 2019. Any cost to the department can be accommodated within the department's existing budget.