NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE GEORGIA BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY CHAPTER 671-3 LICENSE REQUIREMENTS, RULE 671-3-.02 REFERENCES, AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the authority set forth below, the Georgia Board of Occupational Therapy (hereinafter "Board") proposes an amendment to Rule Chapter 671-3 License Requirements, Rule 671-3-.02 References. (hereinafter "proposed rule amendment").

This notice, together with an exact copy of the proposed rule amendment and a synopsis of the proposed rule amendment, is being mailed to all persons who have requested, in writing, that they be placed on a mailing list. A copy of this notice, an exact copy of the proposed rule amendment, and a synopsis of the proposed rule amendment may be reviewed during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, except official State holidays, at the Office of the Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. These documents will also be available for review on the Board website at www.sos.state.ga.us/plb/ot or by contacting the Board office at 478-207-2440.

A public hearing is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, February 17, 2017, in the Office of the Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia, 31217 to provide the public an opportunity to comment upon and provide input into the proposed rule amendment.

At the public hearing anyone may present data, make a statement, comment or offer a viewpoint or argument whether orally or in writing. Lengthy statements or statements of a considerable technical or economic nature, as well as previously recorded messages, must be submitted for the official record. Oral statements should be concise and will be limited to five (5) minutes per person. Written comments are welcomed. Such written comments must be legible and signed, should contain contact information from the maker (address, telephone number and/or facsimile number, etc.) and be actually received in the office prior to the close of business (5:00 p.m. EDT) on Friday, February 10, 2017. Written comments should be addressed to Lisa W. Durden, Director, Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, Georgia Board of Occupational Therapy, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217; Fax (866) 888-1308.

The Board will consider the proposed rule amendment for adoption at its meeting scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m., Friday, February 17, 2017 at the Georgia Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. According to the Department of Law, State of Georgia, the Board has the authority to adopt the proposed rule amendment to 671-6-.02 pursuant to authority contained in O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-3, 43-1-19, 43-1-25, 43-28-7, 43-28-9 and 43-28-10.

At its meeting May 13, 2016, the Board voted that the formulation and adoption of this rule does not impose excessive regulatory cost on any licensee and any cost to comply with the proposed rule cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the objectives of

O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-3, 43-1-19, 43-1-25, 43-28-7, 43-28-9 and 43-28-10.

Additionally, at its meeting May 13, 2016, the Board voted that it is not legal or feasible to meet the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-3, 43-1-19, 43-1-25, 43-28-7, 43-28-9 and 43-28-10 to adopt or implement differing actions for businesses as listed in O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(3)(A), (B), (C), and (D). The formulation and adoption of these rules will impact every licensee in the same manner and each licensee is independently licensed in the field of Occupational Therapy.

For further information, contact the Board office at (478) 207-2440.

This notice is given in compliance with Section 4(a)(1) of the Georgia Administrative Procedures Act (O.C.G.A. §50-13-4).

This 16 day of Dec., 2016.

Lisa W. Durden
Director
Professional Licensing Boards

Posted: 16 DEC 16

SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE GEORGIA BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY RULE FOR CHAPTER 671-3 LICENSE REQUIREMENTS, RULE 671-3-.02 REFERENCES

Purpose: The purpose of this rule amendment is to further identify who may complete the three required reference forms.

Main Features: The purpose of this rule amendment will clarify that one or both of the professional reference forms may be completed by a certified or licensed occupational therapy practitioner who has knowledge of the applicant's professional training or experience within the last five years. The second professional reference form may also be completed by a licensed healthcare professional that has knowledge of the applicant's professional training or experience within the last five years and the final reference must be a personal reference.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE EXISTING RULE AND THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE GEORGIA BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY RULE FOR CHAPTER 671-3 LICENSE REQUIREMENTS, RULE 671-3-.02 REFERENCES

[Note: underlined text is proposed to be added; lined-through text is proposed to be deleted.]

Rule 671-3-.02. References. Amended

Three references will be required on forms provided by the Board from individuals who have knowledge of the applicant's professional training or experience within the last five years.~~,~~ ~~two~~ At least one professional reference~~of which~~ must be from certified or licensed occupational therapy practitioners.~~,~~ ~~or~~ The second professional reference may be from another certified or licensed occupational therapy practitioner or any other licensed healthcare professional.~~, who have knowledge of the applicant's professional training or experience during the last five years~~. The third and final reference must be a personal reference.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-3, 43-1-19, 43-1-25, 43-28-7, 43-28-9 and 43-28-10.

Rule 671-3-.02. References. Amended

Three references will be required on forms provided by the Board from individuals who have knowledge of the applicant's professional training or experience within the last five years. At least one professional reference must be from certified or licensed occupational therapy practitioner. The second professional reference may be from another certified or licensed occupational therapy practitioner or any other licensed healthcare professional. The third and final reference must be a personal reference.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-3, 43-1-19, 43-1-25, 43-28-7, 43-28-9 and 43-28-10.