

**GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**  
**Board Teleconference Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, June 27, 2017 – 9:00 a.m.**

The Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy met via teleconference on June 27, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. The following members were present:

**Board Members Present**

Stefanie Palma, PT, Chairperson  
Monty Strickland, PT  
Charles Bass, PT  
Anne Thompson, PT  
Chad Whitefield, PTA  
Reid Lawson, PT  
Jesse Crews, Consumer Member

**Administrative Staff Present**

Adrienne Price, Executive Director  
Kathy Osier, Licensing Supervisor  
Michelle Foster, Board Support Specialist

**Attorney General's Office**

No Attorney General present.

**Board Members Absent**

Dorothy Gaskin, PT, Vice Chair

**Visitors Present**

No visitors present.

**Call to Order:** Dr. Palma established that a quorum of the Board was present and called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

**OPEN SESSION**

**Agenda** The Board accepted the agenda as presented.

**9:00 a.m. Public Rules Hearing**

**1. Board Rule 490-2-.10 Licensure: Endorsement/Reciprocity for Military Spouses and Transitioning Service Members**

Dr. Palma called the hearing in the matter of Board Rule 490-2-.10 Licensure: Endorsement/Reciprocity for Military Spouses and Transitioning Service Members hearing to order at 9:02 a.m. Members of the Board introduced themselves for the record and Dr. Palma established that there were no members of the general public present.

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF  
PHYSICAL THERAPY RULE FOR CHAPTER 490-2, LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS,  
RULE 490-2-.10, LICENSURE: ENDORSEMENT/RECIPROCITY  
FOR MILITARY SPOUSES AND TRANSITIONING SERVICE MEMBERS.**

**Purpose:** All Professional Licensing Boards have been mandated by O.C.G.A. § 43-1-34 Military Spouses and Veterans Licensure to adopt rules and regulations implementing a process by which military spouses and transitioning service members may qualify for temporary licenses, licenses by endorsement, expedited licenses, or a combination thereof no later than July 1, 2017.

**Main Features:** The rule will further clarify the means by which military spouses and transitioning service members may qualify for temporary licenses, licenses by endorsement, expedited licenses.

**DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE EXISTING RULE AND THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE  
GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY RULE FOR CHAPTER 490-2, LICENSURE  
REQUIREMENTS, RULE 490-2-.10, LICENSURE: ENDORSEMENT/RECIPROCITY FOR MILITARY  
SPOUSES AND TRANSITIONING SERVICE MEMBERS.**

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

**Rule 490-2-.10. Licensure: Endorsement/Reciprocity for Military Spouses and Transitioning Service Members**

(1) The Board may, in its discretion register a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant without an examination as set forth in Official Code of Georgia Annotated Section 43-33-15 upon receipt of a complete application and payment of applicable fees. (Refer to fee schedule)

(2) A military spouse or transitioning service member, as defined in O.C.G.A. § 43-1-34, is deemed eligible to apply for licensure pursuant to O.C.G.A. 43-33-15 if the applicant is a holder of a valid physical therapy or physical therapist assistant license in another State for which the training, experience and testing substantially meet or exceed the requirements under this state to obtain a license; and,

(3) The military spouse or transitioning service member must be a graduate of a physical therapy or physical therapist assistant program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) approved by the Board, and must provide:

(a) Verification of an active license in good standing from another state board; and,

(b) Within six (6) months of the issuance of a license, submit a verification of licensure in good standing from the state board of all states in which the applicant has held a license to actively practice; and,

(c) Verification of active continued competence in physical therapy in the two years immediately preceding the date of this application; and,

(d) Official transcript from the institution granting the entry level degree in physical therapy or physical therapist assistant indicating the date of graduation; and,

(e) Scores from the national licensing examination.

(4) Any military spouse or transitioning service member applying for licensure pursuant to O.C.G.A. 43-33-15 who is a graduate of a physical therapy or physical therapist assistant program not accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) or approved by the Board, must provide:

(a) Verification of an active license in good standing from another state; and,

(b) Within six (6) months of the issuance of a license, submit verification of licensure in good standing from the state board of all states in which the applicant has actively practiced in the two years immediately preceding the date of this application; and,

(c) Verification of active continued competence in physical therapy in the two years immediately preceding the date of this application; and,

(d) Official evaluation and transcript from a credential evaluation organization approved by the State of Georgia; and,

(f) Scores from the national licensing examination.

(5) Proof of graduation from an accredited physical therapy or physical therapist assistant program or credential evaluations deemed substantially equivalent to the professional degree, and satisfactory completion of the licensing examination shall be deemed to be prima facie evidence of compliance with Code Section 43-33-15. The Board, however, may request further verification of any credential submitted if deemed necessary to evaluate the application.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-1-34, 43-33-2, 43-33-3, 43-33-10 and 43-33-11.

### **Written Comments Received**

No written comments were received or offered during the hearing.

### **Verbal Comments Received**

No verbal comments were received or offered from the general public during the hearing.

Mr. Crews motioned, Mr. Strickland seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to adopt the Board Rule 490-2-.10 Licensure: Endorsement/Reciprocity for Military Spouses and Transitioning Service Members proposed amendment as posted.

The Board discussed the economic impact of Board Rule 490-2-.10 Licensure: Endorsement/Reciprocity for Military Spouses and Transitioning Service Members upon licensees and noted that there is a positive economic impact in that it allows military service members, transitioning service members and their spouses to obtain a license to work sooner. Dr. Palma further noted that the revisions to the rule are a result of a statutory requirement to make allowances to expedite licensure for military service members, transitioning service members and their spouses.

Mr. Strickland motioned, Mr. Bass seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion 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.

Mr. Strickland motioned, Mr. Bass seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion that it is not legal or feasible to meet the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-1-34, 43-33-2, 43-33-3, 43-33-10 and 43-33-11 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 Physical Therapy.

### **Petition for Rule Waiver Requests**

#### **1. Rule Waiver – BR 490-2-.03(1)(d) Gabriela Motta**

Mr. Strickland motioned, Dr. Thompson seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to grant the petition for waiver of BR 490-2-.03(1)(d) based on the petitioner demonstrating proficiency in English.

#### **2. Rule Waiver – BR 490-2-.03(1)(g) Harm Van der Lei**

Dr. Thompson motioned, Mr. Lawson seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to deny the petition for waiver of BR 490-2-.03(1)(g) based on insufficient evidence to substantiate a unique hardship.

### **Petition for Rule Variance Requests**

#### **1. Rule Variance – BR 490-2-.09(2)(c) Puneeth Kortegeri-Prakash**

Dr. Thompson motioned, Mr. Bass seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to grant the petition for rule variance of BR 490-2-.09(2)(c) based on applicant fulfilling the requirements in an alternative way which affords adequate protection for the public health, safety, and welfare.

**Mr. Crews made the motion, Mr. Lawson seconded, and the Board voted to enter into Executive Session in accordance with O.C.G.A. §43-1-19(h)(2) and §43-1-2(k) to deliberate and to receive information on applications, investigative reports and the Assistant Attorney General’s report. Voting in favor of the motion were Dr. Stefanie Palma, Monty Strickland, Reid Lawson, Chad Whitefield, Charles Bass, Dr. Anne Thompson and Jesse Crews.**

**At the conclusion of Executive Session on Tuesday, June 27, 2017, Dr. Palma declared the meeting to be “open” pursuant to the Open and Public Meeting Act O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1 et seq. No votes were obtained during Executive Session.**

**OPEN SESSION**

### **Applications**

Dr. Thompson motioned, Mr. Lawson seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the following recommendations made in Executive Session.

**1. PT170160 – Request for Reconsideration**      Uphold previous decision in this case.

**Adjournment:** There being no additional business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:22 a.m.

**Minutes recorded by:** Michelle Foster, Board Support Specialist  
**Minutes reviewed and edited by:** Kathy Osier, Licensing Supervisor & Adrienne Price, Executive Director  
**Minutes approved on:** July 18, 2017

DR. STEFANIE PALMA  
**BOARD CHAIR**

ADRIENNE PRICE  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**