

**GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**  
**Board Teleconference Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, August 29, 2018 – 9:00 a.m.**

The Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy met via teleconference on August 29, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. The following members were present:

**Board Members Present**

Stefanie Palma, DPT, Chairperson  
Dorothy Gaskin, PT, Vice Chair  
Dr. Anne Thompson, EdD, PT  
Chad Whitefield, PTA  
Charles Bass, PT

**Administrative Staff Present**

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

**Attorney General's Office**

Wylencia Monroe, Senior Assistant Attorney General

**Board Members Absent**

Monty Strickland, PT  
Jesse Crews, Consumer Member

**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 9:13 a.m.

**OPEN SESSION**

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

**Open Session Minutes**

**1. July 17, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Gaskin motioned, Dr. Thompson seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the July 17, 2018 open session Board meeting minutes as presented.

**Petition for Rule Waiver Requests**

**1. Rule Waiver – BR 490-2-.03(1)(b) – Ashlesha Akhilesh Gokhale**

Dr. Thompson motioned, Ms. Gaskin seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to deny the petition for waiver of BR 490-2-.03(1)(b) based on insufficient evidence to substantiate a substantial hardship to the extent that there remains a question concerning the true identity of the individual referenced on the various documents. You may resubmit the petition to the Board upon substantial evidence that the individual named on the documents are one and the same.

**9:30 a.m. Public Rules Hearing Board Rule 490-3-.02 Re-examination**

Dr. Palma called the hearing in the matter of Board Rule 490-3-.02 Re-examination hearing to order at 9:30 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 490-3, EVALUATION OF EXAMINATIONS: APPLICANTS, RULE 490-3-.02, RE-  
EXAMINATION.**

**Purpose:** The purpose of this rule amendment is to further clarify the requirements to be eligible to take the national examination, up to the maximum lifetime limit, as established by the exam administrator approved by the Board.

**Main Features:** The amendments further clarifies that the examination required to be eligible for a license is a national examination. Further identifies the requirements to be eligible to re-take the examination and removes language that an applicant for re-examination must submit to the Board a remediation plan and proof of completion of such plan. Additional language was inserted to include the requirements for a re-take applicant to appeal the examination administrator's determination that the applicant is ineligible to re-take the examination and to clarify that the Board may require applicants to complete a board approved traineeship upon passing the examination and prior to the issuance of a license if the applicant has not successfully passed the NPTE within two (2) years of the initial test date.

## **DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE EXISTING RULE AND THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY RULE FOR CHAPTER 490-3, EVALUATION OF EXAMINATIONS: APPLICANTS, RULE 490-3-.02, RE-EXAMINATION.**

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

### **Rule 490-3-.02. Re-examination**

(1) An applicant who fails the national examination on the first attempt may ~~submit a re-examination application to the Board to be made eligible to test a second time~~ retake the examination up to the maximum lifetime limit in accordance with the eligibility criteria established by the exam administrator approved by the Board.

(2) An applicant who fails the national examination will receive a notification from the Board to include an acknowledgement of receipt of the examination scores, with a request that the applicant complete a comprehensive review of their individual Score Report that is provided to them by the exam administrator. ~~on the second attempt must submit the following before being made eligible to test a third time:~~

~~(a) A copy of his/her "Examination Performance Feedback Report" obtained from the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT), and pay all costs associated with acquiring the report.~~

~~(b) A remediation plan addressing each area of weakness/failure. Examination preparation courses will be considered provided that such course addresses the area(s) of weakness/failure. The remediation plan must be developed in consultation with an appropriately licensed physical therapist or physical therapy assistant, or by a faculty member of a CAPTE accredited program.~~

~~(c) Proof of satisfactory completion of such remediation plan.~~

~~1. An applicant may be approved administratively to take the examination a third time after the above outlined procedure has been completed and approved.~~

(3) An applicant may submit an appeal form to the Board for one (1) additional attempt to retake and pass the national exam if the applicant has been notified by the exam administrator or the Board that the applicant is ineligible to register to retake the national examination ~~who fails the examination three (3) or more times must submit a remediation plan as outlined above in 490-3-.02 (2)(a) and (b). The remediation plan must be approved by the Board prior to the applicant's beginning or initiating the plan. An applicant may be approved to take the examination only after proof of satisfactory completion of the approved plan has been submitted.~~

(4) If an applicant has not successfully passed the NPTE within two (2) years of the initial test date, the applicant shall complete a board approved traineeship upon passing the examination and prior to the issuance of a license.

O.C.G.A. §§ 43-33-10 and 43-33-12

### **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.

Ms. Gaskin motioned, Dr. Thompson seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to adopt the Board Rule 490-3-.02 Re-examination proposed amendment as posted.

The Board discussed the economic impact of Board Rule 490-3-.02 Re-examination upon licensees. Dr. Thompson motioned, Ms. Gaskin 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.

Dr. Thompson motioned, Ms. Gaskin 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. §§ 43-33-10 and 43-33-12 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.

Ms. Gaskin motioned, Mr. Whitehead seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to release the Attorney General's Memorandum of Authority and any supplemental memos regarding Rule 490-3-.02. Re-examination to the Governor's Office for review.

The hearing adjourned at 9:37 a.m.

#### **Miscellaneous Discussion**

##### **1. Request for Post Graduate Training – Applicant 2650745 – Dr. Jason Smith PT012904**

Ms. Gaskin motioned, Mr. Whitehead seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the request for Post Graduate Training for Dr. Jason Smith.

#### **Executive Session Minutes**

##### **1. July 17, 2018 Executive Board Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Gaskin motioned, Dr. Thompson seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the July 17, 2018 executive session Board meeting minutes as amended for grammatical errors.

#### **Miscellaneous Discussions**

##### **1. Board Rule 490-2-.04 Training Permits**

Mr. Bass motioned, Ms. Gaskin seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to release the Attorney General's Memorandum of Authority and any supplemental memos regarding Board Rule 490-2-.04 Training Permits to the Governor's Office for review.

##### **2. Review of Licensure Application Materials**

Mr. Bass motioned, Mr. Whitefield seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion for Ms. Gaskin and Dr. Thompson to be two member task force to review forms and processes for online and paper applications for licensure and report recommendations during the September 17, 2018 Board meeting.

**Adjournment:** There being no additional business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

**Minutes recorded by:**

Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist

**Minutes reviewed and edited by:**

Kathy Osier, Licensing Supervisor & Adrienne Price, Executive Director

**Minutes approved on:**

September 18, 2018

**DR. STEFANIE PALMA**  
**BOARD CHAIR**

**ADRIENNE PRICE**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**