

HOUSE No. 2063

By Mr. Wall of Lawrence, petition of the Association for Physical and Mental Rehabilitation and others for legislation relative to the practice of corrective therapy by licensed corrective therapists. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Three.

AN ACT RELATING TO THE PRACTICE OF CORRECTIVE THERAPY BY LICENSED CORRECTIVE THERAPISTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. *Definition.* — In this act, unless the
2 context otherwise requires —

3 (a) The term “corrective therapy” shall be syn-
4 onymous with the terms, exercise therapy, corrective
5 physical education and physical reconditioning. How-
6 ever, this shall not authorize practice of corrective
7 therapy by persons engaged in the above work unless
8 all other conditions of this bill are met.

9 (b) Corrective therapy is medically prescribed
10 activity directed toward —

11 (1) Maintaining or improving the general state of
12 health of the mentally or physically disabled individ-
13 ual by preventing muscular deterioration, conserving
14 and increasing strength and strengthening functions
15 of physical residuals.

16 (2) The teaching of activities for daily living, in-
17 cluding self-care, health and personal hygiene, train-
18 ing in the use of prosthetic devices and furnishing
19 instruction in crutch ambulation techniques, and gait
20 training following injury, amputation or paralysis.

21 (3) Promoting mental rehabilitation by providing
22 opportunity for socially acceptable creative accom-
23 plishments, relief of guilt feelings, expressions of
24 aggressions and resocialization, through physical ac-
25 tivity and adaptive sports.

26 (c) "Corrective therapist" means a person who
27 practices corrective therapy as defined in this act
28 under the prescription, supervision and direction of a
29 person licensed in this state to practice medicine,
30 surgery and psychiatry.

31 (d) "Board" means the board of registration in
32 medicine.

1 SECTION 2. *Practice without a license prohibited.* —

2 A person who has not been licensed by the board as a
3 corrective therapist shall not represent himself as
4 being so licensed.

1 SECTION 3. *Requirements for License.* — To be
2 licensed as a corrective therapist an applicant must —

3 (a) Be at least twenty-one years of age.

4 (b) Be of good moral character.

5 (c) Have been graduated at an approved high
6 school or its equivalent.

7 (d) Have completed a four-year course at an ac-
8 credited college or university leading to a degree with
9 a major in health and physical education.

10 (e) Either (1) have completed a minimum of thirty
11 hours in graduate work in rehabilitation including such
12 courses as corrective physical education applied to

13 pathological conditions, adaptive sports for the men-
14 tal and physically handicapped, elementary psychia-
15 try, abnormal psychology, anatomy and physiology
16 applied to reconditioning, neurology, physiology of
17 exercise, principles of counseling and guidance and in-
18 cluding a minimum of three hundred hours of clinical
19 practice in corrective therapy under the supervision
20 of a doctor of medicine, or (2) be entitled to a license
21 as provided in section five of this act.

1 SECTION 4. *Application for License.* — Unless en-
2 titled to a license under section five of this act, a per-
3 son who desires to be licensed as a corrective therapist
4 shall apply to the board in writing on a blank furnished
5 by the board. He shall include in the application
6 evidence under oath of his possessing the qualifica-
7 tions required by the preceding section. He shall pay
8 at the time of filing his application a fee of ten dollars,
9 no portion of which shall be returned.

1 SECTION 5. The board shall license as a corrective
2 therapist any person who —
3 (1) Applies for such license on or before ;
4 (2) Is now practicing and has practiced corrective
5 therapy for a period of two years under the super-
6 vision and direction of a person licensed in this state
7 to practice medicine, surgery and psychiatry;
8 (3) And at the time of passage of this act is an
9 active member of, or is eligible for active membership
10 in, the association for physical and mental rehabilita-
11 tion. Such applicant shall pay the board a fee of five
12 dollars.

1 SECTION 6. *Renewal of Registration.* — Every li-
2 censed corrective therapist shall during January of the

3 year following his initial registration and during Janu-
4 ary every third year thereafter, apply to the board for
5 an extension of his license and pay a fee of five dollars.
6 A license that is not so extended before April first of
7 the year following his initial registration and there-
8 after before April first every third year shall auto-
9 matically lapse.

1 SECTION 7. *Refusal, Revocation and Suspension of*
2 *Registration.* — The board after due notice and hear-
3 ing may refuse to license any applicant and may refuse
4 to renew the license of any licensed person and may
5 suspend or revoke the license of any licensed person
6 who has treated or undertaken to treat ailments of
7 human beings otherwise than by corrective therapy
8 and as authorized by this act, or who has undertaken
9 to practice independent of the prescription, direction
10 or supervision of a person licensed in this state to
11 practice medicine and surgery without limitation, or
12 who is, in the judgment of the board, mentally or
13 morally unfit to practice corrective therapy.

1 SECTION 8. *False Claim of Registration forbidden.* —
2 A person who is not licensed under this act as a cor-
3 rective therapist or whose license has been suspended
4 or revoked or whose license has lapsed and has not
5 been revived, who uses in connection with his name
6 the words “licensed corrective therapist” or who in
7 any way, directly or by implication, represents him-
8 self as a licensed corrective therapist shall be guilty of
9 a misdemeanor; further, a person who wilfully makes
10 false representation to obtain a license shall be
11 guilty of a misdemeanor.

1 SECTION 9. A license to practice corrective therapy
2 shall not permit the holder thereof to administer
3 drugs nor to practice medicine except to administer
4 medically prescribed physical activities under the
5 supervision of a duly licensed physician. Licenses to
6 practice corrective therapy shall be registered in ac-
7 cordance with the provisions of this article and the
8 words "licensed corrective therapist" shall be in-
9 cluded in such license and shall entitle the holder to
10 the use of the words "licensed corrective therapist".

1 SECTION 10. *Powers and Duties of Board.* — The
2 board is authorized to adopt reasonable rules to carry
3 this act into effect, and may amend and revoke such
4 rules at its discretion. The board shall maintain a
5 register of all corrective therapists licensed under it
6 and contain such additional information as deemed
7 pertinent by the board. A list of all licensed cor-
8 rective therapists shall be made available by the
9 board to any interested person, upon application and
10 the payment of an amount not to exceed the cost of
11 the list.

