



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 23**

February Session, 2018

Substitute Senate Bill No. 171

*Senate, March 20, 2018*

The Committee on Public Health reported through SEN. GERRATANA of the 6th Dist. and SEN. SOMERS of the 18th Dist., Chairpersons of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## ***AN ACT CONCERNING DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY DESIGNATION.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 20-73 of the  
2 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
3 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2018*):

4 (a) (1) No person may practice as a physical therapist unless  
5 licensed pursuant to this chapter. No person may use the term  
6 ["Registered Physical Therapist,"] "Licensed Physical Therapist",  
7 "Doctor of Physical Therapy" or "Physical Therapist" or the letters  
8 ["R.P.T.,"] "L.P.T." or "D.P.T." or any other letters, words or insignia  
9 indicating or implying licensure as a physical therapist in this state  
10 unless the person is so licensed. No person may use the term Doctor of  
11 Physical Therapy or D.P.T. unless the person has earned a Doctor of  
12 Physical Therapy degree from an accredited institution of higher  
13 education.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2018</i>	20-73(a)(1)

**PH**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

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***OFA Fiscal Note******State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None***Explanation***

The bill, which permits physical therapists that have a doctorate in physical therapy to use the designation of "Doctor of Physical Therapy," does not result in a fiscal impact to the state or municipalities. This change is not anticipated to affect the number of individuals licensed by the Department of Public Health.

***The Out Years******State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None

**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 171*****AN ACT CONCERNING DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY DESIGNATION.*****SUMMARY**

This bill prohibits anyone from using the term “Doctor of Physical Therapy” or the letters “D.P.T.” unless the person is licensed as a physical therapist and has a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from an accredited higher education institution. A violation is a class D felony, punishable by up to five years in prison, a fine of up to \$5,000, or both (CGS § 20-73(c)).

The bill also removes obsolete statutory references to “registered physical therapist” and “R.P.T.”

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2018

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 25 Nay 0 (03/09/2018)