**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 40‑45‑230(G) AND (H) OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO THE EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE BY THE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY EXAMINERS, TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF TIMES A PERSON MAY ATTEMPT TO PASS LICENSURE BY THE BOARD FROM TWO TO SIX; AND TO AMEND SECTION 40‑45‑260 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO THE LIMITS ON ATTEMPTS TO PASS THE LICENSURE EXAMINATION FOR PHYSICAL THERAPISTS AND PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANTS, TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF ATTEMPTS FROM TWO TO SIX.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Section 40‑45‑230(G) and (H) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(G) If an applicant fails the examination, whether or not taken in South Carolina, the applicant may take the examination a second time on payment of the examination fee and completion of an official application. If the applicant fails the examination for a second time, whether or not taken in this State, then the applicant may take the examination a third time on payment of the examination fee and completion of an official application. If an applicant fails the examination a third time, whether or not taken in this State, then the applicant may take the examination a fourth time on payment of the examination fee and completion of an official application. If an applicant fails the examination a fourth time, whether or not taken in this State, then the applicant may take the examination a fifth time, and the applicant, in addition to the requirements for the previous examination, must take courses the board may require and furnish evidence of completing these courses before taking the examination a sixth time.

(H) No person may be licensed under this chapter if the person has failed the examination ~~three~~ six or more times, whether or not the exam was taken in South Carolina.”

SECTION 2. Section 40‑45‑260(D) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(D) The board must not issue a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant license to an applicant who has failed to achieve a passing score ~~three~~ six or more times on a board‑approved licensure examination.”

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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