

The Physical Therapy Board of California proposes to amend section 1398.25 and add section 1398.26.3 to Article 2, Division 13.2, Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations, to read as follows:

§ 1398.25 Credentials Evaluation Services

In accordance with Section 2653 of the code, the board will accept reports from credentials evaluation services which meet all of the following criteria:

(a) The service retains the services of a physical therapist consultant(s) who is licensed as a physical therapist in a state or territory of the United States and is used in an advisory capacity to review individual cases for comparability to the educational and training requirements of Section 2650 of the code for hours and content.

(b) The service is able to document the experience of its employees by producing positive letters of reference from other state licensing agencies, educational institutions or professional organizations.

(c) The service is able to submit a report to the board that shall be based on a review of original documentation of an applicant's credentials and shall document the following:

(1) The equivalent professional degree the foreign applicant would have received from an accredited physical therapist education program located in the United States.

(2) Whether completion of the foreign applicant's physical therapist education and training entitles the foreign applicant to practice as a physical therapist in the country where the education and training was completed.

(3) Whether the foreign applicant achieved the minimum required scores within a single administration of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) in accordance with section 1398.26.3(a) or is exempt from such requirement pursuant 1398.26.3(b).

Note: Authority cited: Section 2615, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 2650, 2651 and 2653, Business and Professions Code.

§ 1398.26.3 English Proficiency

(a) In accordance with Section 2653 of the code, an applicant who graduated from a physical therapist education program that is not approved by the board and is not located in the United States (a "foreign applicant") must demonstrate English proficiency by achieving the following minimum scores within a single administration of the test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL):

(1) Reading Section – 21

(2) Listening Section – 18

(3) Writing Section – 24

(4) Speaking Section - 26

(b) A foreign applicant who meets the following criteria is exempt from the requirement in subsection (a) above:

(1) One who graduated from a college, university or professional training school in Australia, Canada, (except Quebec), Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, or the United States;

(2) One who is or would be exempt from TOEFL requirements pursuant to found at Title 8, Code of Federal Regulations, section 212.15, subsection (g)(2)(ii), as it currently exists or is hereafter amended.

Note: Authority Cited: Section 2615, Business and Professions Code, Reference: Sections 2650, 2651, and 2653, Business and Professions Code; Title 8, Code of Federal Regulations , section 212.15.