

Sunset Bills Filed

The culmination of the Sunset Review was realized on March 7, 2017 with the filing of the Sunset Bills relating to the continuation and functions of the Executive Council of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Examiners (ECPTOTE), the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners (TBPTE), and the Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners (TBOTE). The Senate Bill (**SB 317**) was filed by Senator Robert Nichols, and the House Bill (**HB 4069**) by Representative Cindy Burkett. The degree of association of the bills is identical.

In addition to continuing the ECPTOTE, the TBPTE, and the TBOTE as currently structured until 2029, other amendments to the statutes include:

- Discontinue the registration of physical and occupational therapy facilities and temporarily authorize the boards to expunge facility-related administrative violations from a licensee's record.
- Adopt the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact.
- Provide clear statutory authority for licensure by endorsement.
- Clarify that occupational therapy assistants licensed in other states may practice in this state temporarily under the same conditions as occupational therapists.
- Remove PT provisions prescribing educational requirements beyond completion of an accredited program or substantially equivalent to an accredited program.
- Clarify statutes to reflect current standards and conditions.
- Continue the boards' authority to delegate to other entities the responsibility of approving continuing education and continuing competence, and require the boards to adopt rules relating to the approval of continuing competence or continuing education courses inclusive of a request for proposal and bid process.
- Require the boards to conduct fingerprint-based criminal background checks of licensure applicants and licensees.
- Require the boards to develop a disciplinary matrix.
- Remove the "good moral character" standard as a criterion for foreign-trained licensure applicants.
- Provide for governor designation of the presiding officer of each board.

Any change in statute (PT Practice Act or OT Practice Act) as a result of the Sunset Bills would not occur until passed by both the Texas Senate and the Texas House of Representatives and signed into law by the Governor.

To view the history, text, and actions of the bills, please follow the links below:

<http://www.legis.state.tx.us/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=85R&Bill=SB317>

<http://www.legis.state.tx.us/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=85R&Bill=HB4069>