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July 14, 2010

NOTICE OF EMERGENCY RULE DECISION BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE

AGENCY: West Virginia Board of Physical Therapy

RULE: Amendment, 16CSR1 **Section 8 only**, General Provisions for Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist Assistant

DATE FILED AS AN EMERGENCY RULE: June 29, 2010

DECISION NO. 10-10

Following review under W. Va. Code §29A-3-15a, it is the decision of the Secretary of State that the above emergency rule, **Section 8 only is approved**. A copy of the complete decision with required findings is available from this office.

NATALIE E. TENNANT  
Secretary of State

EMERGENCY RULE DECISION  
(ERD 10-10)

AGENCY: West Virginia Board of Physical Therapy

RULE: Amendment, 16CSR1 **Section 8 only**, General Provisions for Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist Assistant

par. 1 The West Virginia Board of Physical Therapy (Board) has filed the above amendment to an existing rule as an emergency rule.

par. 2 W. Va. Code §29A-3-15a requires the Secretary of State to review all emergency rules filed after March 8, 1986. This review requires the Secretary of State to determine if the agency filing such emergency rule: 1) has complied with the procedures for adopting an emergency rule; 2) exceeded the scope of its statutory authority in promulgating the emergency rule; or 3) can show that an emergency exists justifying the promulgation of an emergency rule.

par. 3 Following review, the Secretary of State shall issue a decision as to whether or not such an emergency rule should be disapproved [§29A-3-15a].

par. 4 (A) Procedural Compliance: W. Va. Code §29A-3-15 permits an agency to adopt, amend or repeal, without hearing, any legislative rule by filing such rule, along with a statement of the circumstances constituting the emergency, with the Secretary of State and forthwith with the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee (LRMRC).

par. 5 If an agency has accomplished the above two required filings with the appropriate supporting documents by the time the emergency rule decision is issued or the expiration of the forty-two day review period, whichever is sooner, the Secretary of State shall rule in favor of procedural compliance.

par. 6 The Board filed this emergency rule with supporting documents with the Secretary of State June 29, 2010 and with the LRMRC June 29, 2010.

par. 7 It is the determination of the Secretary of State that the Board has complied with the procedural requirements of W. Va. Code §29A-3-15 for adoption of an emergency rule.

par. 8 (B) Statutory Authority -- W. Va. Code §30-20-6(18b) reads:

*(b) The board shall promulgate emergency rules pursuant to the provisions of section fifteen, article three, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code, to establish a maximum ratio of physical therapist assistants, or physical therapy aides involved in the practice of physical therapy, or any combinations that can be supervised by a physical therapist at any one time.*

par. 9 It is the determination of the Secretary of State that the Board has not exceeded its statutory authority in promulgating this emergency rule.

par. 10 (C) Emergency -- W. Va. Code §29A-3-15(f) defines "emergency" as follows:

*(f) For the purposes of this section, an emergency exists when the promulgation of a rule is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety or welfare or is necessary to comply with a time limitation established by this code or by a federal statute or regulation or to prevent substantial harm to the public interest.*

par. 11 There are essentially three classes of emergency broadly presented with the above provision: 1) immediate preservation; 2) time limitation; and 3) substantial harm. An agency need only document to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State that there exists a nexus between the proposal and the circumstances creating at least one of the above three emergency categories.

par. 12 The facts and circumstances as presented by the Board are as follows:

The Board of Physical Therapy's ratio for Physical Therapist supervising a Physical Therapist Assistant is currently established in the statute of 2 to 1 and when the new law H.B. 4140 goes into effect on June 11, 2010 it will remove the ratio from the statute. H.B. 4140 states on §30-20-6 (1 8b) the Board shall promulgate emergency rules to establish a maximum ratio of physical therapist assistants, or physical therapy aides involved in the practice of physical therapy, or any combinations that can be supervised by a Physical Therapist at any one time.

par. 13 It is the determination of the Secretary of State that **Section 8 only** of this proposal qualifies under the definition of an emergency as defined in §29A-3-15(f). . . "immediate preservation of public peace, health, safety or welfare" and "prevent substantial harm to the public interest"

par. 14 This decision shall be cited as Emergency Rule Decision 10-10 or ERD 10-10 and may be cited as precedent. This decision is available from the Secretary of State and has been filed with the West Virginia Board of Physical Therapy, the Attorney General and the Legislative Rule Making Review Committee.



NATALIE E. TENNANT  
Secretary of State

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