



Holcomb, Nonnie S <nonnie.s.holcomb@wv.gov>

Re: Feedback on Proposed Changes

1 message

Randy Meador <rmeador43@gmail.com>

Tue, Jul 14, 2026 at 4:19 PM

To: "Holcomb, Nonnie S" <nonnie.s.holcomb@wv.gov>

Cc: "BOPT, WV" <wvbopt@wv.gov>, "Wheeler-Johnson, Jennifer" <jennifer.wheelerjohnson@hsc.wvu.edu>, wvatapres@gmail.com, "belmaggio@marshall.edu" <belmaggio@marshall.edu>, "Mattocks, Alma" <alma.mattocks@hsc.wvu.edu>

Nonnie,

Thank you for your quick response and more information. Very unfortunate that software is increasing in price that much. Also it is nice to know that West Virginia is a "bargain" compared to other states. Your office does a great job and it is less of a hassle than another state that I was recently licensed in.

Totally understand that each group is facing increases and that this is necessary. Just unfortunate that the minority (Athletic Trainers) are going to pay more than others (Physical Therapy Assistants) when there are more of them and they make more money than Athletic Trainers. The increases may be the same, but our total expense is more. As you put it: "Because the total number of licensed ATs in West Virginia is significantly lower, the fixed administrative cost to regulate, audit, and provide legal oversight per individual AT is disproportionately higher."

The minority (Athletic Trainers) at the dinner table have to pay a larger portion even though there are less of us and we make less money. If we were all at a restaurant together I think we would divide the bill evenly.

Appreciate all you do for us.

Thanks,
Randy

On Tue, Jul 14, 2026 at 9:07 AM Holcomb, Nonnie S <nonnie.s.holcomb@wv.gov> wrote:

Randy,

Thank you for taking the time to share your feedback regarding the proposed rule changes and the increase in Athletic Trainer (AT) biennial renewal fees. Your concerns are valid and reflect a real challenge across healthcare professions.

To address your point directly, your salary data is accurate. Nationally and within West Virginia, PTAs do see a higher average annual wage than ATs. Instead, the new fees are based on everyday administrative costs, software systems, and the number of professionals registered in each specific field.

When reviewing the broader regulatory landscape and the changes currently being implemented by the Board, there are clear structural reasons for this fee structure. First, PTAs are not being excluded from these increases. Under the concurrent rule proposal, the PT and PTA biennial renewal fee is also rising by \$20. This ensures that all professions under the Board's purview are absorbing a share of rising administrative costs.

The West Virginia Board of Physical Therapy oversees roughly 3,300 total licensees, but the vast majority of that pool is comprised of PTs and PTAs. Because the total number of licensed ATs in West Virginia is significantly lower, the fixed administrative cost to regulate, audit, and provide legal oversight per individual AT is disproportionately higher.

The main reason for this \$20 increase is the rapidly rising cost of running and upgrading our secure online licensing system. Our old system only cost about \$1,166 a year, but the modern database platform we use now has jumped to nearly \$9,708 annually. On top of that, our current contract is up, and the price is set to increase to \$25,000 per year with an additional 4% hike each year. We are looking to put this out for bid to find a new system, but all comparable options are similarly priced. Many even require a \$70,000 to \$100,000 start-up fee alongside monthly maintenance costs. While we will select the lowest bidder who can deliver exactly what we need, the reality is that software has become a major expense.

We have completely shifted from paper to 100% online processing. If we were to revert to an old paper system or fail to modernize, licensees would understandably complain that we are stuck in the past, so we have to balance these operational demands somehow. Even at \$100 every two years, West Virginia athletic trainers will still pay less than those in nearby states. When you break it down yearly, West Virginia averages out to \$50 a year, compared to North

Carolina at \$75, Virginia at \$67.50, and Maryland at \$80.50. Nationally, a \$100 biennial fee is actually on the lower end. Many states charge much more to keep a license active, like New Hampshire at \$121 every two years, New Mexico at \$165 annually, and Connecticut at \$205 annually. Boards all across the country are facing these exact same budget adjustments just to cover basic operational costs, legal duties, and modern technology.

This feedback will be formally noted for the West Virginia Legislature.

Sincerely,

Nonnie S. Holcomb

Executive Director

WV Board of Physical Therapy

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Disclaimer:

Please note that all responses the West Virginia Board of Physical Therapy (hereinafter "Board") gives to individual questions are based solely upon WV Code § 30-20-1 et seq., WV Code § 30-20A-1 et seq., the Code of State rules 16-1-1 et seq. and Code of State rules 16-5-1 et seq. These Statutory and Regulatory provisions govern the jurisdiction of the Board, and its sole purpose of regulating the practice of Physical Therapy and Athletic Training to protect the public. Moreover, a provider should consult with his/her legal counsel and insurance payers for questions pertaining to billing for Physical Therapy and Athletic Training services.

Isaiah 55:8-9

On Mon, Jul 13, 2026 at 9:40 PM Randy Meador <rmeador43@gmail.com> wrote:

To whom it may concern:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback on this important matter.

I understand the need to increase fees(unfortunately), it does seem like a necessary evil. But I don't understand why the Athletic Trainers within the state should have to pay more than Physical Therapy Assistants when on average the Physical Therapy Assistants have a higher annual salary?

A simple google search provided this information:

The average Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA) salary in West Virginia ranges from **\$51,000 to \$65,000** annually, translating to roughly **\$25.00 to \$31.00 per hour**. This typically sits slightly below or around

the national average, heavily dependent on your specific location, experience, and the employing facility.

The average annual salary for an athletic trainer in West Virginia typically ranges between **\$42,000 and \$53,800**, depending on the source. This breaks down to roughly **\$20 to \$26 per hour**. While state averages trend lower than the national median, factors like experience, location, and employer significantly impact earnings.

If different data is available I would like to see it and it should be shared too. If this data is accurate, it seems that the Physical Therapy Assistant should be paying as much if not more than an Athletic Trainer or the Athletic Trainer's rate could be lowered to the Physical Therapy Assistant rate.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for this opportunity,
Randy Meador