



HB 2448/SB 6407 - Spinal Manipulation Endorsement Supervision

In 2014, lawmakers passed legislation establishing a spinal manipulation endorsement for physical therapists. In order to receive this endorsement, a physical therapist must fulfill certain requirements, including completion of at least 300 hours of supervised practice. Supervisors include a physical therapist with the spinal manipulation endorsement; a licensed chiropractor; a licensed osteopathic physician and surgeon; or a person who meets the education and training requirements of the endorsement, but does not have the endorsement.

- This last category captures supervising physical therapists licensed in other states, who have the requisite education and training, to meet the qualifications of the spinal manipulation endorsement.
- On July 1, 2020, this category of supervisors expires so that clinically supervised hours obtained by an out-of-state physical therapist will no longer count toward the spinal manipulation endorsement.
- Of the over 7600 licensed physical therapists in Washington, 246 hold a spinal manipulation endorsement. **Of those, about one-third had supervisors from out-of-state.**

In 2017, lawmakers passed the physical therapy licensure compact bill, making Washington the tenth state in the nation to join the physical therapy compact. Currently, 26 states have joined the compact, including Oregon.

HB 2482/SB 6407 would remove the July 1, 2020 change so that the four types of providers currently specified in the law can continue to provide supervision.

Without this change, out-of-state physical therapists will not be able to count hours of supervised training done in their home state. Instead, they will have to duplicate their 300 hours of clinically supervised training.

- This duplication is an unnecessary barrier to physical therapists practicing in Washington under the licensure compact.
- It is also a waste of time and money.