

# LICENSURE OF PHYSICAL THERAPISTS



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## FISCAL ANALYSIS

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### HOUSE BILL 5014 SUBSTITUTE (H-1)

**Sponsor:** Rep. Barb Vander Veen

**House Committee:** Health Policy

### FLOOR ANALYSIS - 11/12/02

**Analyst(s):** Bob Schneider

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### SUMMARY

The bill amends the Public Health Code to clarify the definition of the practice of “physical therapy” and to establish a definition for “physical therapy assistants”. The bill also increases the annual license fee for physical therapists from \$50 to \$60 and establishes a new Physical Therapy Professional Fund (PTPF) to be funded through contributions of 10% of each individual annual license fee collected. The PTPF is to be utilized to finance the establishment and operation of a physical therapy continuing education program, which is also established under the bill.

The bill's continuing education requirements and the increased fee provisions would increase state costs and state revenues by similar amounts. Data from the Department of Consumer and Industry Services - Bureau of Health Services, which is responsible for the licensing and regulation of health professions, indicates that roughly 6,500 persons were licensed as physical therapists during FY 2001. This would suggest that the \$10 annual fee increase would, on average, generate around \$65,000 in new revenue annually (actual renewals occur every two years). Around \$25,000 of this revenue would accrue to the Health Professional Regulatory Fund – the fund that collects all licensing and registration fee revenue attributable to health professionals. Around \$40,000 would be deposited annually in the new PTPF as a result of the 10% contribution provided for in the bill. These PTPF revenues would likely offset any increased costs related to the establishment and operation of the new continuing education requirements imposed in the bill.