

RECEIVED

Original 2136

2000 SEP 26 AM 9:06

September 15, 2000

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION



Robert E. Nice
Executive Director
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Re: (16A-674) General Revisions

Dear Mr. Nice:

We appreciate your staff alerting AOTA to the proposed general revisions to the State Board of Occupational Therapy Education and Licensure Board regulations that were published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* in August, and letting us know where they were in the process. Earlier this week Fiona Wilmarth contacted us with a question about our Code of Ethics.

We also appreciate the offer to allow AOTA to provide additional comment. The first area that I would like to comment on is to suggest that the Board adopt or adapt the most recent version of AOTA's Code of Ethics that was approved by our Representative Assembly in April 2000. I realize that this version was not available when the proposed rules were drafted, but since the rules have not been finalized, there is an opportunity to recognize the most current thinking in the profession on this important topic. As Fiona requested, I forwarded the most recent version of the American Occupational Therapy Association's Code of Ethics in an earlier e-mail.

In addition, we urge a change in section **§42.12. Waiver of licensure examination** to make it consistent with Board policy and section **§42.15. Application for temporary license**. Current Board policy does not require *current* certification from the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT), so the use of that term in section **§42.12. (2)** may be confusing. It has not been used in section **§42.15. (c) (3)**, which similarly refers to requirements of applicants from other states.

Suggested changes:

Underlined = Board proposed changes

[Brackets] = Board proposed deletions

Underlined = AOTA proposed changes

[**Underlined** Brackets] = AOTA proposed deletions

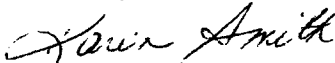
§42.12. Waiver of licensure examination.

(2) Satisfactory evidence that the applicant has successfully completed the [AOTCB] NBCOT Certification Examination and [is currently] has been initially certified by [AOTCB] NBCOT as a registered occupational therapist or an occupational therapy assistant.

The use of the term "current certification" can be construed to require compliance with NBCOT's recent requirements for recertification. The Association's position is that the any state board requirements for compliance with the NBCOT recertification program are premature at this time because the program has not yet been fully defined. Until the complete features of the program have been developed and shared with members of the profession for evaluation and comment, we believe it prudent for state boards to withhold action on such a requirement.

Thank you again for the opportunity to make additional comments. If I can be of further assistance, please contact me at (301)652-6611 ext. 2018 or karens@aota.org.

Sincerely,



Karen Smith, OTR/L
Legislative Associate
State Policy Department

cc: Susan Haiman, President, POTA
Hanna Gruen, Chairperson, PA State Board of OT
Herbert Abramson, Counsel, PA State Board of OT

Original: 2136

IRRC

From: Charles Willmarth [WILLMART@aota.org]
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2000 3:07 PM
To: irrc@irrc.state.pa.us
Cc: Karen Smith; occupati@pados.state.pa.us; HaimanS@philau.edu
Subject: Re: (16A-674) General Revisions



PA proposed rules
Sept 2000.do...

Please see the attached comments by the American Occupational Therapy Association regarding (16A-674) General Revisions.

Please contact me at 301/652-6611 x2019 if you have questions or have trouble with the attachment.

Chuck Willmarth
Legislative Analyst
American Occupational Therapy Association

September 15, 2000

Robert E. Nice
Executive Director
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Re: (16A-674) General Revisions

Dear Mr. Nice:

We appreciate your staff alerting AOTA to the proposed general revisions to the State Board of Occupational Therapy Education and Licensure Board regulations that were published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* in August, and letting us know where they were in the process. Earlier this week Fiona Wilmarth contacted us with a question about our Code of Ethics.

We also appreciate the offer to allow AOTA to provide additional comment. The first area that I would like to comment on is to suggest that the Board adopt or adapt the most recent version of AOTA's Code of Ethics that was approved by our Representative Assembly in April 2000. I realize that this version was not available when the proposed rules were drafted, but since the rules have not been finalized, there is an opportunity to recognize the most current thinking in the profession on this important topic. As Fiona requested, I forwarded the most recent version of the American Occupational Therapy Association's Code of Ethics in an earlier e-mail.

In addition, we urge a change in section §42.12. **Waiver of licensure examination** to make it consistent with Board policy and section §42.15. **Application for temporary license**. Current Board policy does not require *current* certification from the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT), so the use of that term in section §42.12. (2) may be confusing. It has not been used in section §42.15. (c) (3), which similarly refers to requirements of applicants from other states.

Suggested changes:

Underlined = Board proposed changes

[Brackets] = Board proposed deletions

Bold Underlined = AOTA proposed changes

[Bold Brackets] = AOTA proposed deletions

§42.12. Waiver of licensure examination.

(2) Satisfactory evidence that the applicant has successfully completed the [AOTCB] NBCOT Certification Examination and [is currently] has been initially certified by [AOTCB] NBCOT as a registered occupational therapist or an occupational therapy assistant.

The use of the term "current certification" can be construed to require compliance with NBCOT's recent requirements for recertification. The Association's position is that the any state board requirements for compliance with the NBCOT recertification program are premature at this time because the program has not yet been fully defined. Until the complete features of the program have been developed and shared with members of the profession for evaluation and comment, we believe it prudent for state boards to withhold action on such a requirement.

Thank you again for the opportunity to make additional comments. If I can be of further assistance, please contact me at (301)652-6611 ext. 2018 or karens@aota.org.

Sincerely,

Karen Smith, OTR/L
Legislative Associate
State Policy Department

cc: Susan Haiman, President, POTA
Hanna Gruen, Chairperson, PA State Board of OT
Herbert Abramson, Counsel, PA State Board of OT