



**SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE**  
**STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT**  
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<b>Bill Number:</b>	H. 3703	Signed by Governor on May 16, 2019
<b>Author:</b>	Lowe	
<b>Subject:</b>	PT Licensure Examination	
<b>Requestor:</b>	House of Representatives	
<b>RFA Analyst(s):</b>	A. Martin	
<b>Impact Date:</b>	May 29, 2019	

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### **Fiscal Impact Summary**

This bill increases the maximum number of examination attempts allowed for the licensure of physical therapists (PT) and physical therapist assistants (PTA). This bill will have no expenditure impact on the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR) because it does not materially alter the oversight or regulatory duties of the agency or its boards.

This bill will have no revenue impact on LLR because the licensure board does not receive fees for examinations for PTs and PTAs.

### **Explanation of Fiscal Impact**

#### **Signed by Governor on May 16, 2019**

##### **State Expenditure**

This bill increases the maximum number of times an applicant may attempt the licensure examination for PTs and PTAs. These examinations are administered by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT), and fees for the examination are paid directly to the federation. Current South Carolina law limits the number of examination attempts to three. This includes attempts in all states, not just South Carolina. Before a third attempt, the South Carolina Board of Physical Therapy Examiners (board) requires an applicant to complete additional coursework. This bill will increase the total number of examination attempts to six, which is the maximum number of attempts allowed by the FSBPT. In addition, this bill will delay the requirement for additional coursework until after the fifth failed attempt.

Physical therapists and physical therapist assistants are licensed by the Board of Physical Therapists, which is under the regulation of LLR. Because the examinations are administered by the FSBPT, LLR does not incur costs due to testing. In addition, the failure rate for these examinations is low. The FSBPT reports that an average of 90 percent of all PT and PTA applicants successfully pass the examination on their first attempt. Over the past three years, the state board has averaged 270 license applications per year, with an average of 29 applicants requiring retesting. While not able to determine an exact number, the board provided an anecdotal estimate of roughly 10 applicants that have been required to appear before the board over the last few years after failing the examination on a second attempt. Therefore, this bill will have no expenditure impact on LLR.

**State Revenue**

This bill increases the number of times an applicant for a PT or PTA license may attempt the licensure examination. Because the fee for the examination is paid directly to the FSBPT, LLR does not receive any revenue from the testing process. Therefore, this bill will have no revenue impact on LLR.

**Local Expenditure**

N/A

**Local Revenue**

N/A



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Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director