



S.F. No. 2571 – Modifying occupational therapy licensure and application requirements

Author: Senator Robert J. Kupec

Prepared by: Erica Heikel, Senate Counsel (erica.heikel@mnsenate.gov)

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Bill Overview

S.F. No. 2571 modifies several statutes in the sections of Chapter 148G governing Occupational Therapy Licensure (sections 148.6401 – 148.645). The statutory modifications provided in the bill are largely conforming and technical changes. Additionally, S.F. No. 2571 provides new, updated language to follow Minnesota’s 2024 adoption of the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact, which is not yet operational. Notable changes to Chapter 148G are outlined in more detail below.

Summaries of Notable Sections

Sections 3 - 18 (Definitions) adds or amends definitions of key terms used in the occupational therapy statutes, including:

- **Occupational therapist** – An individual licensed to practice occupational therapy and who is responsible for and directs the evaluation process, discharge planning process, development of intervention plans, and who provide occupational therapy services.
- **Occupational therapy assistant** – An individual licensed to assist in the practice of occupational therapy who works under supervision of and in partnership with an occupational therapist.
- **Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education or ACOTE** – The entity that accredits occupational therapy education programs and establishes, approves, and administers occupational therapy educational standards.
- **National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy or NBCOT** – The entity that administers occupational therapy certification examinations and provides board certification for occupational therapy practitioners.

Section 28 (Licensure by Reciprocity) provides that the Board of Occupational Therapy Practice may license a person who does not hold a current NBCOT certification but who holds a compact privilege through the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact or is credentialed in another U.S. state if the board determines that such credentials are equivalent to or exceed the Minnesota standards of licensure.

Section 30 (Applications for Initial Licensure) provides that when applying for initial licensure as an occupational therapy practitioner, an applicant may submit documentation verifying their practice status in Compact Commission states as part of the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact.

Section 54 (Grounds for Denial of Licensure or Discipline) adds grounds for the board to deny or impose conditions upon an occupational therapist's license or to discipline a licensee, including upon a finding that an individual:

- Obtained a license by fraud, misrepresentation, or concealment of material fact.
- Failed to report other licensees that have violated sections governing occupational therapy practitioners.
- Improperly managed client records.
- Improperly supervised or delegated assigned occupational therapy tasks to other licensed professionals, including to occupational therapy assistants.

Section 59 (Qualifications of Board Members) provides that practitioners who hold interstate licensure contact privileges are not eligible to serve on the board.

Section 62 (Repealer) repeals subdivisions in section 148.6423 covering License Renewal that expired on December 31, 2023. This section also repeals subdivisions in section 148.6420 covering Application Requirements, which are replaced in the bill with new application requirements.



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95 University Ave. W, STE 3300, Saint Paul, MN, 55155