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WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 1999

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ENROLLED

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR House Bill No. 2802

(By Delegates Douglas, Varner, Faircloth, Azinger and Marshall)

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Passed March 12, 1999

In Effect Ninety Days from Passage

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COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

H. B. 2802

(BY DELEGATES DOUGLAS, VARNER, FAIRCLOTH, AZINGER AND MARSHALL)

[Passed March 12, 1999; in effect ninety days from passage.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact sections two, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten and eleven, article twenty, chapter thirty of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended; and to further amend said article by adding thereto a new section, designated section fifteen, all relating to the practice of physical therapy; revising definitions; requiring rules; removing requirement of direct supervision of physical therapy assistants; removing language on physician referral; allowing board to contract for administration of examinations; removing requirement of providing free list of licensees; clarifying that fines be paid into the general revenue fund; revising educational and licensure requirements; empowering the board to set fees by rule; providing for biennial licensure renewal; requiring meetings; powers of board with respect to suspension, revocation or nonrenewal of license; limitations on temporary permits; and providing for a termination date.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That sections two, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten and eleven, article twenty, chapter thirty of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended and reenacted; and that said article be further amended by adding thereto a new section, designated section fifteen, all to read as follows:

ARTICLE 20. PHYSICAL THERAPISTS.

§30-20-2. Definitions.

1 Unless the context in which used clearly requires a different 2 meaning, as used in this article:

3 (a) "Applicant" means any person making application for 4 an original or renewal license or a temporary permit under the 5 provisions of this article.

6 (b) "Board" means the West Virginia board of physical7 therapy.

8 (c) "Licensed physical therapist" means any physical 9 therapist holding a license or temporary permit issued under the 10 provisions of this article or under the former provisions of this 11 article.

(d) "Licensed physical therapy assistant" means any
physical therapy assistant holding a license or temporary permit
issued under the provisions of this article.

(e) "Licensee" means any person holding a license or
temporary permit issued under the provisions of this article or
under the former provisions of this article.

18 (f) "Physical therapy" means the therapeutic treatment of 19 any person by the use of massage, mechanical stimulation, heat, 20 cold, light, air, water, electricity, sound and exercise, including mobilization of the joints and training in functional activities, 21 for the purpose of correcting or alleviating any physical or 22 23 mental condition or preventing the development of any physical 24 or mental disability, and the performance of neuro-muscular-25 skeletal tests and measurements as an aid in diagnosis, evaluation or determination of the existence of and the extent of any 26 27 body malfunction: Provided, That electromyography examina-28 tion and electrodiagnostic studies other than the determination

lagnostic studies of

of chronaxia and strength duration curves shall not be performed except under the supervision of a physician electromyographer and electrodiagnostician. Physical therapy does not include the use of radiology and radium for diagnostic and therapeutic purposes, or the use of electricity for surgical purposes, including cauterization.

(g) "Physical therapist" means a person who engages in thepractice of physical therapy.

(h) "Physical therapy aide" means a person, other than a
physical therapy assistant, who assists a licensed physical
therapist in the practice of physical therapy under the direct
supervision of such licensed physical therapist and who also
performs activities supportive of but not involving assistance in
the practice of physical therapy.

43 (1) As contained in this section, the term "direct supervi44 sion" means the actual physical presence of the physical
45 therapist in the immediate treatment area where the treatment
46 is being rendered.

47 (i) "Physical therapy assistant" means a person who assists 48 in the practice of physical therapy by performing patient-related 49 activities delegated to him or her by a licensed physical 50 therapist and performed under the supervision of a licensed 51 physical therapist, with the scope of such supervision to be 52 defined by the board by legislative rule, and which patient-53 related activities are commensurate with his or her education 54 and training, including physical therapy procedures, but not the 55 performance of evaluation procedures or determination and 56 modification of patient programs: Provided, That the board 57 shall, on or before the first day of July, one thousand nine hundred ninety-nine, propose rules for legislative approval in 58 59 accordance with article three, chapter twenty-nine-a of this 60 code, which rules shall govern the scope of supervision of 61 physical therapy assistants.

(j) "Practice of physical therapy" means the rendering or
offering to render for a fee, salary or other compensation,
monetary or otherwise, any service involving physical therapy.

65 However, for the purpose of section three of this article, the 66 term "practice of physical therapy" shall not include:

(1) Teaching physical therapy as part of employment at aninstitution of higher learning;

69 (2) The activities of a student of physical therapy, physical 70 therapy extern or physical therapy intern, which activities are 71 a part of and are engaged in pursuant to a course of study at an 72 institution of higher learning, including, but not limited to, 73 activities conducted at the institution of higher learning and 74 activities conducted outside the institution if under the direct 75 supervision of a licensed physical therapist;

(3) The activities of a physical therapy aide if all activities
of such physical therapy aide involving assistance in the
practice of physical therapy are performed under the direct
supervision of a licensed physical therapist; or

80 (4) The administration of simple massages and the opera81 tion of health clubs so long as not intended to constitute or
82 represent the practice of physical therapy.

§30-20-4. West Virginia board of physical therapy continued; members, terms, meetings, officers, oath, compensation and expenses; general provisions.

1 (a) The West Virginia state board of examiners and 2 registration of physical therapists heretofore created shall 3 continue in existence but on and after the effective date of this 4 article shall be known and designated as "the West Virginia 5 board of physical therapy", and shall consist of five members 6 appointed by the governor by and with the advice and consent 7 of the Senate. The three members of the board in office on the 8 effective date of this article shall, unless sooner removed, 9 continue to serve until their terms expire and until their 10 successors have been appointed and have qualified. Members 11 shall be appointed for overlapping terms of five years, so that 12 one term expires each year, or until their successors have been 13 appointed and have qualified. Any vacancy shall be filled by 14 appointment by the governor for the unexpired term of the 15 member whose office shall be vacant and any such appointment

shall be made within sixty days of the occurrence of such
vacancy. The governor may remove any member of the board
in case of incompetency, neglect of duty, gross immorality or
malfeasance in office.

20 (b) Each member of the board must be licensed under the 21 provisions of this article or under the former provisions of this 22 article, have at least three years' experience as a physical 23 therapist and be actively engaged in the practice of physical 24 therapy. Members may be reappointed for any number of terms. 25 Before entering upon the performance of this duty, each 26 member shall take and subscribe to the oath prescribed by 27 section five, article IV of the constitution of this state.

28 (c) The board shall elect from its membership a chairman 29 and secretary who shall serve at the will and pleasure of the 30 board. A majority of the members of the board shall constitute 31 a quorum and meetings shall be held at the call of the chairman 32 or upon the written request of three members at such time and 33 place as designated in such call or request, and, in any event, 34 the board shall meet at least once annually to transact business 35 as may come before it. Members may be paid such reasonable 36 compensation as the board may from time to time determine, 37 and in addition may be reimbursed for all reasonable and 38 necessary expenses actually incurred in the performance of their 39 duties, which compensation and expenses shall be paid in 40 accordance with the provisions of subsection (b), section five of this article. 41

§30-20-5. Powers and duties of board; funds of board.

1 (a) The board shall:

2 (1) Examine applicants and determine their eligibility for 3 a license or temporary permit to engage in the practice of 4 physical therapy or to act as a physical therapy assistant, as the 5 case may be;

6 (2) Provide for the administration of an examination of 7 applicants for a license to engage in the practice of physical 8 therapy and a separate examination of applicants for a license 9 to act as a physical therapy assistant;

10 (3) Determine the time and place for any such examinations11 and the passing score for each such separate examination;

(4) Propose rules for legislative approval in accordance
with article three, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code implementing the provisions of this article and the powers and duties
conferred upon the board hereby, including, but not limited to:

16 (A) Reasonable rules establishing standards to insure that 17 the activities of a licensed physical therapy assistant are 18 performed in accordance with the definitional requirements of 19 a physical therapy assistant as specified in subsection (i), section two of this article, which reasonable rules shall require 20 21 that there be no more than two physical therapy assistants 22 licensed to practice in this state for every physical therapist so 23 licensed and shall require that no more than two physical 24 therapy assistants be performing under the supervision of a 25 licensed physical therapist at any one time;

(B) Reasonable rules establishing standards to insure that
those activities of a physical therapy aide are performed in
accordance with the definitional requirements specified in
subsection (h), section two of this article; and

30 (C) Rules establishing reasonable licensing and examina31 tion fees as provided in this article and in accordance with
32 section six, article one, chapter thirty of this code;

(5) Issue, renew, deny, suspend or revoke licenses and
temporary permits to engage in the practice of physical therapy
or licenses and temporary permits to act as physical therapy
assistants in accordance with the provisions of this article and,
in accordance with the administrative procedures hereinafter
provided, may renew, affirm, reverse, vacate or modify its order
with respect to any such denial, suspension or revocation;

(6) Investigate alleged violations of any provision of this
article, any reasonable rule promulgated hereunder and any
order or final decision of the board and take appropriate
disciplinary action against any licensee for the violation thereof
or institute appropriate legal action for the enforcement of any
provision of this article, any reasonable rule promulgated

46 hereunder and any order or final decision of the board or take47 such disciplinary action and institute such legal action;

48 (7) Purchase or rent necessary office space, equipment and
49 supplies and employ, direct, discharge and define the duties of
50 an executive secretary and other full-time or part-time profes51 sional, clerical or other personnel necessary to effectuate the
52 provisions of this article;

53 (8) Maintain a register listing the name of every licensed 54 physical therapist and licensed physical therapy assistant, his or her last known place of business or employment and last known 55 residence, and the date and certificate number of his or her 56 57 license: prepare annually from such register a list of every such licensed physical therapist and licensed physical therapy 58 assistant; furnish the list to any hospital, physician or other 59 interested person who makes application therefor and who pays 60 61 to the board the reasonable cost of the copy of such list;

62 (9) Keep accurate and complete records of its proceedings, 63 certify the same as may be appropriate and submit to the 64 governor a report on the transactions of the board including an 65 accounting of all money received and disbursed;

66 (10) Whenever it deems it appropriate, confer with the 67 attorney general or his or her assistants in connection with all 68 legal matters and questions, whose responsibility it shall be to 69 render all legal assistance required; and

(11) Take such other action as may be reasonably necessary
and appropriate to effectuate the provisions of this article.

72 (b) All moneys paid to the board shall be accepted by a 73 person designated by the board and deposited by him or her 74 with the treasurer of the state and credited to an account to be known as the "West Virginia Board of Physical Therapy": 75 Provided, That all moneys collected as fines shall be paid into 76 77 the general revenue fund. The compensation of and the reim-78 bursement of all reasonable and necessary expenses actually 79 incurred by the members of the board and all other costs and 80 expenses incurred by the board in the administration of this 81 article shall be paid from the board's fund, and no part of the

state's general revenue fund shall be expended for suchpurpose.

§30-20-6. Qualifications of applicants for license; application fee.

1 (a) To be eligible for a license to engage in the practice of 2 physical therapy, the applicant must:

- 3 (1) Be at least eighteen years of age;
- 4 (2) Be of good moral character;

5 (3) Not be addicted to the intemperate use of alcohol or 6 narcotic drugs or other controlled substances;

7 (4) Not have been convicted of a felony in any state or 8 federal court in this or any other state within ten years preced-9 ing the date of application for license, which conviction remains unreversed; and not have been convicted of a felony in any state 10 11 or federal court in this or any other state at any time if the 12 offense for which he or she was convicted related to the 13 practice of physical therapy, which conviction remains unre-14 versed;

15 (5) Present evidence that the applicant is a graduate of an 16 accredited school of physical therapy approved by the commis-17 sion on accreditation in physical therapy education and the 18 board: Provided, That any person who received his or her 19 education in physical therapy outside of the United States may 20 qualify for a license by fulfilling the requirements specified by 21 the commission on accreditation in physical therapy education 22 and the board; including successful completion of a period of 23 supervised clinical experience and,

(6) Either have passed the examination prescribed by the
board for a license to engage in the practice of physical therapy,
or be entitled to be licensed without examination as provided in
subsection (d) of this section.

(b) To be eligible for a license to act as a physical therapyassistant, the applicant must:

30 (1) Satisfy the requirements of subdivisions (1) through (4),
31 subsection (a) of this section;

(2) Present evidence that he or she is a graduate of a twoyear college level education program for physical therapy
assistants which meets the standards established by the commission on accreditation in physical therapy education and the
board; and

37 (3) Either have passed the examination prescribed by the
38 board for a license to act as a physical therapy assistant, or be
39 entitled to be licensed without examination as provided in
40 subsection (d) of this section.

41 (c) Although an applicant does not meet the educational 42 requirement specified in subdivision (2), subsection (b) of this 43 section, the board may, nevertheless, issue a license to act as a physical therapy assistant to such applicant if such applicant: (i) 44 45 Presents evidence that he or she has a high school diploma or its 46 equivalent; (ii) meets the requirements of subdivision (1), 47 subsection (b) of this section; (iii) presents sufficient and 48 satisfactory written evidence to the board on or before the first 49 day of July, one thousand nine hundred seventy-nine, that such 50 applicant has been employed as a physical therapy aide under 51 the supervision of a licensed physical therapist in this state on 52 a full-time basis for a continuous period of at least two years, or 53 for cumulative periods of time either full-time or part-time 54 which equal two years full-time employment, between the first 55 day of January, one thousand nine hundred seventy-one, and the first day of July, one thousand nine hundred seventy-nine; and 56 57 (iv) successfully passes the examination required for a license 58 to act as a physical therapy assistant: Provided, That such 59 applicant shall be afforded only two opportunities to pass such 60 examination.

61 (d) The board may issue a license to practice physical 62 therapy or a license to act as a physical therapy assistant, without examination, to any applicant who holds a valid license 63 or is registered to engage in the practice of physical therapy or 64 65 to act as a physical therapy assistant, as the case may be, issued to him or her under the laws of another state or territory or 66 67 possession of the United States: Provided, That the applicant's qualifications are in the opinion of the board equal to or greater 68

than the requirements of this article and the rules promulgatedby the board.

(e) Any applicant for a license under the provisions of subsection (a), (b), (c) or (d) of this section shall submit an application therefor at such time, in such manner, on such forms and containing such information as the board shall from time to time by reasonable rule prescribe, and pay to the board a nonrefundable application fee which shall be established by the board by legislative rule.

§30-20-7. Examination of applicants.

1 The board shall offer the prescribed examination to 2 applicants for a license to engage in the practice of physical 3 therapy and the prescribed examination to applicants for a 4 license to act as a physical therapy assistant, who meet the 5 appropriate other requirements of section six of this article. 6 Examinations shall be offered within this state, at least once each year, at such time and place as the board shall determine. 7 §30-20-8. Issuance of license; renewal of license; renewal fee; display of license.

1 (a) Whenever the board finds that an applicant meets all of 2 the requirements of this article for a license to engage in the 3 practice of physical therapy or to act as a physical therapy 4 assistant, as the case may be, it shall forthwith issue to him or 5 her such license; and otherwise the board shall deny the same.

6 (b) Every licensee shall renew his or her license every two 7 years at such time and upon such forms as prescribed by the board, and upon the payment of a license fee established by the 8 9 board by legislative rule. Any license which is not so renewed shall automatically lapse. A license which has lapsed may be 10 11 renewed within five years of its expiration date by payment to 12 the board of the appropriate renewal fee for each year or part 13 thereof during which the license was not renewed. After the 14 expiration of a five-year period, a license may be renewed only 15 by complying with the provisions herein relating to the issuance of an original license. 16

17 (c) A licensee desiring to cease engaging in the practice of 18 physical therapy temporarily or to cease acting temporarily as 19 a physical therapy assistant shall send a written notice to the 20 board. Upon receipt of the notice, the board shall place the 21 name of the person upon the inactive list. While his or her name 22 remains on this list, the person shall not be subject to the 23 payment of any fee and shall not engage in the practice of 24 physical therapy or act as a physical therapy assistant, as the 25 case may be, in this state. When the person again desires to 26 engage in the practice of physical therapy or to act as a physical 27 therapy assistant, application for renewal of the license and the 28 payment of a renewal fee for the then current year shall be 29 made to the board.

30 (d) The board may deny any application for renewal of a
31 license for any reason which would justify the denial of an
32 original application for a license.

(e) The board shall prescribe the form of licenses and each
license shall be conspicuously displayed by the licensee at his
or her principal place of practice.

36 (f) Any license issued under the former provisions of this 37 article, which license remains unsuspended and unrevoked, 38 shall be valid and considered for all purposes as having been 39 issued under the provisions of this article and may be renewed, 40 suspended or revoked as licenses issued under the provisions of 41 this article, and any license issued under the former provisions 42 of this article which has lapsed or shall hereafter lapse is subject 43 to the provisions of subsection (b) of this section pertaining to 44 the lapse of a license issued under the provisions of this article and the renewal thereof. 45

§30-20-9. Temporary permits.

1 (a) Upon proper application and the payment of a 2 nonrefundable fee which shall be established by the board by 3 legislative rule, the board may issue, without examination, a 4 temporary permit to engage in the practice of physical therapy 5 in this state:

6 (1) To any applicant who meets the requirements of 7 subdivisions (1) through (5), subsection (a), section six of this

8 article and who has applied to take the examination. A tempo-9 rary permit so issued shall expire thirty days after the permittee receives notice of the results of the examination, if the 10 permittee receives a passing score on the examination. The 11 12 temporary permit shall expire immediately if the permittee 13 receives a failing score on the examination. An applicant under 14 this subsection may be issued only one temporary permit, and 15 upon the expiration of that permit, may not practice as a 16 physical therapist until fully licensed under the provisions of 17 this article. In no event may a permittee practice on a temporary 18 permit beyond a period of ninety consecutive days. A tempo-19 rary permittee under this subsection shall work under the 20 supervision of a licensed physical therapist, with the scope of 21 such supervision to be defined by the board by legislative rule; 22 and

(2) To an applicant who is licensed outside of this state and
who meets the requirements of subdivisions (1) through (5),
subsection (a), section six of this article, which temporary
permit shall be valid only for a period of ninety consecutive
days.

(b) Upon proper application and the payment of a
nonrefundable fee which shall be established by the board by
legislative rule, the board may issue, without examination, a
temporary permit to act as a physical therapy assistant in this
state:

33 (1) To an applicant who meets the requirements of subdivi-34 sions (1) and (2), subsection (b), section six of this article. A 35 temporary permit so issued shall expire thirty days after the 36 permittee receives notice of the results of the examination, if 37 the permittee receives a passing score on the examination. The 38 temporary permit shall expire immediately if the permittee 39 receives a failing score on the examination. An applicant under 40 this subsection may be issued only one temporary permit, and upon the expiration of that permit, may not practice as a 41 42 physical therapy assistant until fully licensed under the provi-43 sions of this article. In no event may a permittee practice on a 44 temporary permit beyond a period of ninety consecutive days. A temporary permittee under this subsection shall work under
the supervision of a licensed physical therapist, with the scope
of such supervision to be defined by the board by legislative
rule; and,

49 (2) To an applicant who is licensed outside of this state and
50 who meets the requirements of subdivisions (1) and (2),
51 subsection (b), section six of this article, which temporary
52 permit shall be valid only for a period of ninety consecutive
53 days.

§30-20-10. Suspension or revocation of license or temporary permit.

1 (a) The board may at any time upon its own motion, and 2 shall upon the written complaint of any person, conduct an 3 investigation to determine whether there are any grounds for the 4 suspension or revocation of a license or temporary permit 5 issued under the provisions of this article.

6 (b) The board shall have the authority to reprimand, enter 7 into consent decrees, enter into probation orders, levy fines not 8 to exceed one thousand dollars per day per violation, assess 9 administration fees, suspend or revoke the license or temporary 10 permit of any licensee who the board determines has:

(1) Used narcotic drugs, other controlled substances or
 alcohol to the extent that it affects his or her professional
 competency; or

(2) Been convicted of violating any state or federal law
relating to controlled substances, which conviction remains
unreversed;

17 (3) Been, in the judgment of the board, guilty of immoral18 or unprofessional conduct;

(4) Been convicted of a felony or a crime involving moralturpitude;

(5) Been declared mentally incompetent by a court ofcompetent jurisdiction;

(6) Obtained or attempted to obtain a license issued under
the provisions of this article by fraud or willful misrepresentation;

(7) Been grossly negligent in the practice of physical
therapy or in acting as a physical therapy assistant, as the case
may be;

(8) Treated or undertaken to treat a human being otherwisethan by physical therapy and as authorized by this article;

(9) Failed or refused to comply with the provisions of this
article or any reasonable rule promulgated by the board
hereunder or any order or final decision of the board;

(10) In the case of a physical therapist, employed a physical
therapy assistant who is not a licensed physical therapy
assistant; or employed or utilized a licensed physical therapy
assistant or physical therapy aide without complying with the
provisions of this article or the rules of the board; or

(11) In the case of a physical therapy assistant, practiced
physical therapy other than in accordance with the definitional
requirements of a physical therapy assistant as specified in
subdivision (i), section two of this article.

§30-20-11. Procedures for hearing.

1 (a) Whenever the board shall deny an application for any 2 original or renewal license or any application for a temporary 3 permit or shall suspend or revoke any license or temporary 4 permit it shall make and enter an order to that effect and serve 5 a copy thereof on the applicant or licensee, by certified mail, 6 return receipt requested. The order shall state the grounds for 7 the action taken. Before the board may take any disciplinary 8 action against a licensee, the licensee shall be provided with a 9 written statement of the charges against him or her and notice of the right of the licensee to demand a hearing. 10

(b) Any applicant or licensee shall be entitled to a hearing
thereon (as to all issues not excluded from the definition of a
"contested case" as set forth in article one, chapter twenty-ninea of this code) if, within twenty days after receipt of a copy

15 thereof, he or she files with the board a written demand for a 16 hearing. The board may require the applicant or licensee to give 17 reasonable security for the costs thereof, and, if the applicant or 18 licensee does not substantially prevail at the hearing, costs shall 19 be assessed against him or her and may be collected by a civil 20 action or other proper remedy.

(c) Upon request of a hearing to be conducted in accordance
with this section, the board shall set a time and place within
thirty days thereafter. Any scheduled hearing may be continued
by the board upon its own motion or for good cause shown by
the applicant or licensee.

(d) All of the pertinent provisions of article five, chapter
twenty-nine-a of this code shall apply to and govern the hearing
and the administrative procedures in connection with and
following the hearing, with like effect as if the provisions of
said article were set forth in this subsection.

31 (e) Any hearing shall be conducted by a quorum of the 32 board or by a hearing examiner designated by the board. For the 33 purpose of conducting any hearing any member of the board or its designee shall have the power and authority to issue subpoe-34 35 nas and subpoenas duces tecum which shall be issued and 36 served within the time and for the fees and shall be enforced, as 37 specified in section one, article five of chapter twenty-nine-a, 38 and all of the said section one provisions dealing with subpoe-39 nas and subpoenas duces tecum shall apply to subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum issued for the purpose of a hearing 40 41 hereunder.

42 (f) At any hearing the applicant or licensee may represent
43 himself or herself or be represented by an attorney at law
44 admitted to practice before any circuit court of this state. Upon
45 request by the board, it shall be represented at any hearing by
46 the attorney general or his or her assistants.

47 (g) After any hearing and consideration of all of the
48 testimony, evidence and record in the case, the board shall
49 render its decision in writing. The written decision of the board
50 shall be accompanied by findings of fact and conclusions of law

as specified in section three, article five, chapter twenty-nine-a
of this code, and a copy of the decision and accompanying
findings and conclusions shall be served by certified mail,
return receipt requested, upon the applicant or licensee and his
or her attorney of record, if any.

(h) The decision of the board shall be final unless reversed,
vacated or modified upon judicial review thereof in accordance
with the provisions of section twelve of this article.

§30-20-15. Termination date.

- 1 The West Virginia board of physical therapy shall terminate
- 2 on the first day of July, two thousand one, pursuant to the
- 3 provisions of article ten, chapter four of this code.

That Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

157 x Chairman Senate Committee man House Committee Chl

Originating in the House.

Takes effect ninety days from passage.

Salhoo Clerk of the Senate

Buy h. Buy Clerk of the House of Delegates

of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Delegates

The within ____ this the 1999. day of _ Governor

PRESENTED TO THE

GOVERNOR Date___ 3 Time_

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