- 1 SB215
- 2 148362-3
- 3 By Senator Waggoner
- 4 RFD: Health
- 5 First Read: 14-FEB-13

1	SB215
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4	ENGROSSED
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7	A BILL
8	TO BE ENTITLED
9	AN ACT
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11	To amend Sections 34-39-3, 34-39-4, 34-39-5,
12	34-39-6, 34-39-7, 34-39-8, 34-39-11, and 34-39-16, Code of
13	Alabama 1975, relating to the Alabama State Occupational
14	Therapy Practice Act; to provide further for the definition of
15	occupational therapy; to include licensed assistants to a
16	physician acting pursuant to a valid supervisory agreement,
17	licensed certified registered nurse practitioners in a
18	collaborative practice agreement with a licensed physician.

Alabama 1975, relating to the Alabama State Occupational
Therapy Practice Act; to provide further for the definition of
occupational therapy; to include licensed assistants to a
physician acting pursuant to a valid supervisory agreement,
licensed certified registered nurse practitioners in a
collaborative practice agreement with a licensed physician,
and licensed psychologists among those permitted to refer a
patient for occupational therapy treatment; to exempt
occupational therapists performing services in a wellness or
community setting from the referral requirement; to allow a
licensee to include academic credentials with license
acronyms; to increase the number of consecutive terms a board
member may serve from two to three; to delete the requirement
that the State Board of Medical Examiners and the State Board
of Occupational Therapy jointly approve certain rules; to

1 provide for the employment and compensation of an executive 2 director; to delete certain requirements for degree or certificate conferral; to provide for the revocation of an 3 active limited permit upon failure of the permit holder to pass the qualifying examination; to allow the executive 5 6 director, at the request of the secretary, to mail complaints; 7 and to make certain technical corrections. BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA: 8 Section 1. Sections 34-39-3, 34-39-4, 34-39-5, 9 10 34-39-6, 34-39-7, 34-39-8, 34-39-11, and 34-39-16 of the Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows: 11 12 "\$34-39-3. 13 "In this chapter, the following terms shall have the 14 respective meanings provided in this section unless the 15 context clearly requires a different meaning: "(1) ASSOCIATION. The Alabama Occupational Therapy 16 17 Association. "(2) BOARD. The Alabama State Board of Occupational 18 19 Therapy. "(3) LICENSE. A valid and current certificate of 20 21 registration issued by the Alabama State Board of Occupational 22 Therapy. 23 "(4) OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY. The application of 24 purposeful activity in which one engages for evaluation, 25 treatment, and consultation related to problems interfering 26 with functional performance in persons impaired or threatened

by physical illness or injury; psychosocial dysfunction;

congenital dysfunction; developmental and learning dysfunction; the aging process; environmental deprivation or anticipated dysfunction; in order to maximize independence, prevent disability, and maintain health. Specific occupational therapy services include, but are not limited to, evaluation techniques such as assessment of sensory motor abilities; assessment of the development of self-care activities and capacity for independence; assessment of the capacity for work readiness and work tasks; assessment of play and leisure performance; and assessment of environmental areas for individuals with disabilities. Specific occupational therapy treatment techniques include activities of daily living (ADL); the design, fabrication, and application of selected splints or orthotics, or both; sensorimotor activities and exercise; the use of specifically designed goal oriented arts and crafts; design, fabrication, selection, and use of adaptive equipment; therapeutic activities, modalities, and exercises to enhance functional performance; work readiness evaluation and training.

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"a. The practice of occupational therapy means the therapeutic use of occupations, including everyday life activities with individuals, groups, populations, or organizations to support participation, performance, and function in roles and situations in home, school, workplace, community, and other settings. Occupational therapy services are provided for habilitation, rehabilitation, and the promotion of health and wellness to those who have or are at

1	risk for developing an illness, injury, disease, disorder,			
2	condition, impairment, disability, activity limitation, or			
3	participation restriction. Occupational therapy addresses the			
4	physical, cognitive, psychosocial, sensory-perceptual, and			
5	other aspects of performance in a variety of contexts and			
6	environments to support engagement in occupations that affect			
7	physical and mental health, well-being, and quality of life.			
8	The practice of occupational therapy includes:			
9	"1. Evaluation of factors affecting activities of			
10	daily living (ADL), instrumental activities of daily living			
11	(IADL), rest and sleep, education, work, play, leisure, and			
12	social participation including all of the following:			
13	"(i) Client factors, including body functions, such			
14	as neuromusculoskeletal, sensory-perceptual, visual, mental,			
15	cognitive, and pain factors; body structures such as			
16	cardiovascular, digestive, nervous, integumentary,			
17	genitourinary systems, and structures related to movement;			
18	values, beliefs, and spirituality.			
19	"(ii) Habits, routines, roles, rituals, and behavior			
20	patterns.			
21	"(iii) Physical and social environments, cultural,			
22	personal, temporal, and virtual contexts, and activity demands			
23	that affect performance.			
24	"(iv) Performance skills, including motor and			
25	praxis, sensory-perceptual, emotional regulation, cognitive,			
26	communication, and social skills.			

1	"2. Methods or approaches selected to direct the			
2	process of interventions such as:			
3	"(i) Establishment, remediation, or restoration of a			
4	skill or ability that has not yet developed, is impaired, or			
5	is in decline.			
6	"(ii) Compensation, modification, or adaptation of			
7	activity or environment to enhance performance, or to prevent			
8	injuries, disorders, or other conditions.			
9	"(iii) Retention and enhancement of skills or			
10	abilities without which performance in everyday life			
11	activities would decline.			
12	"(iv) Promotion of health and wellness, including			
13	the use of self-management strategies, to enable or enhance			
14	performance in everyday life activities.			
15	"(v) Prevention of barriers to performance and			
16	participation, including injury and disability prevention.			
17	"3. Interventions and procedures to promote or			
18	enhance safety and performance in activities of daily living			
19	(ADL), instrumental activities of daily living (IADL), rest			
20	and sleep, education, work, play, leisure, and social			
21	participation including all of the following:			
22	"(i) Therapeutic use of occupations, exercises, and			
23	activities.			
24	"(ii) Training in self-care, self-management, health			
25	management and maintenance, home management, community/work			
26	reintegration, and school activities and work performance			

1	"(iii) Development, remediation, or compensation of		
2	neuromusculoskeletal, sensory-perceptual, visual, mental, and		
3	cognitive functions, pain tolerance and management, and		
4	behavioral skills.		
5	"(iv) Therapeutic use of self, including one's		
6	personality, insights, perceptions, and judgments, as part of		
7	the therapeutic process.		
8	"(v) Education and training of individuals,		
9	including family members, caregivers, groups, populations, and		
10	others.		
11	"(vi) Care coordination, case management, and		
12	transition services.		
13	"(vii) Consultative services to groups, programs,		
14	organizations, or communities.		
15	"(viii) Modification of environments, including		
16	home, work, school, or community, and adaptation of processes,		
17	including the application of ergonomic principles.		
18	"(ix) Assessment, design, fabrication, application,		
19	fitting, and training in seating and positioning, assistive		
20	technology, adaptive devices, training in the use of		
21	prosthetic devices, orthotic devices, and the design,		
22	fabrication and application of selected splints or orthotics.		
23	"(x) Assessment, recommendation, and training in		
24	techniques to enhance functional mobility, including		
25	management of wheelchairs and other mobility devices.		
26	"(xi) Low vision rehabilitation.		
27	"(xii) Driver rehabilitation and community mobility.		

1	"(xiii) Management of feeding, eating, and
2	swallowing to enable eating and feeding performance.
3	"(xiv) Application of physical agent modalities, and
4	use of a range of specific therapeutic procedures such as
5	wound gare management interventions to enhance

sensory-perceptual and cognitive processing, and manual
therapy, all to enhance performance skills.

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"(xv) Facilitating the occupational performance of groups, populations, or organizations through the modification of environments and the adaptation of processes.

"b. An occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant is qualified to perform the above activities for which they have received training and any other activities for which appropriate training or education, or both, has been received. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, no occupational therapy treatment programs to be rendered by an occupational therapist, occupational therapy assistant, or occupational therapy aide shall be initiated without the referral of a licensed physician, a licensed chiropractor, a licensed optometrist, a licensed assistant to a physician acting pursuant to a valid supervisory agreement, a licensed certified registered nurse practitioner in a collaborative practice agreement with a licensed physician, a licensed psychologist, or a licensed dentist who shall establish a diagnosis of the condition for which the individual will receive occupational therapy services. In cases of long-term or chronic disease, disability, or dysfunction, or any

combination of the foregoing, requiring continued occupational 2 therapy services, the person receiving occupational therapy services shall be reevaluated by a licensed physician, a 3 licensed chiropractor, a licensed optometrist, a licensed assistant to a physician acting pursuant to a valid 5 6 supervisory agreement, a licensed certified registered nurse 7 practitioner in a collaborative practice agreement with a licensed physician, a licensed psychologist, or a licensed 8 dentist at least annually for confirmation or modification of 9 10 the diagnosis. Occupational therapists performing services in a wellness or community setting for the purposes of enhancing 11 12 performance in everyday activities are exempt from this 13 referral requirement. Occupational therapists employed by 14 state agencies and those employed by the public schools and 15 colleges of this state who provide screening and rehabilitation services for the educationally related needs of 16 17 the students are exempt from this referral requirement. 18

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- "(5) OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST. A person licensed to practice occupational therapy whose license is in good standing.
- "(6) OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT. A person licensed to assist in the practices of occupational therapy under the supervision of, or with the consultation of, a licensed occupational therapist whose license is in good standing.
- "(7) OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AIDE. A person who assists in the delivery of occupational therapy, who works under

direct on-site supervision of an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant, or both, and whose activities require an understanding of occupational therapy but do not require professional or advanced training in the basic anatomical, biological, psychological, and social sciences involved in the practice of occupational therapy. No activity listed under paragraph a. of subdivision (4) may be performed by an occupational therapy aide.

- "(8) PERSON. A human person only, not a legal entity.
  - "(9) WITH THE CONSULTATION OF. The collaboration of two or more persons on a regularly scheduled basis for the purpose of planning, review, or evaluation of occupational therapy services.

"§34-39-4.

- "(a) No person may present himself/herself himself or herself as an occupational therapist or an occupational therapy assistant in this state unless he or she is licensed in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. No firm, partnership, association, or corporation may advertise or otherwise offer to provide or convey the impression that it is providing occupational therapy unless an individual holding a current valid license or limited permit under this chapter is or will at the appropriate time be rendering the occupational therapy services to which reference is made.
- "(b) It is unlawful for any person not licensed as an occupational therapist or an occupational therapy assistant

1 or whose license has been suspended or revoked to use in 2 connection with his/her his or her name or place of business the words "occupational therapist," "licensed occupational 3 therapist, " "occupational therapy assistant, " "licensed occupational therapy assistant," or the letters "O.T.," 5 "L.O.T.," "O.T.R./L.," "O.T.A.," "L.O.T.A.," "C.O.T.A./L.," 6 7 thereby indicating or implying that he/she is qualified to practice in this state as a licensed occupational therapist or 8 9 a licensed occupational therapy assistant. At the discretion of the licensee, academic credentials including MS, OTR/L to 10 indicate a master's degree, and OTD to indicate a clinical 11 12 doctorate, may also be used in conjunction with the licensure 13 acronyms. It is unlawful also for any person not licensed 14 under this chapter to show in any other way, orally, in 15 writing, in print, or by sign, directly or by implication that 16 he/she he or she is engaged in performing occupational therapy 17 services.

"\$34-39-5**.** 

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"Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as preventing or restricting the practice, services, or activities of any of the following persons:

- "(1) Any person licensed under any other law of the state from engaging in the profession for which he or she is licensed.
- "(2) Any person employed as an occupational therapist or an occupational therapy assistant by the government of the United States, if the person provides

occupational therapy solely under the direction or control of the organization by which he or she is employed.

- "(3) Any person pursuing a course of study leading to a degree or certificate in occupational therapy at an accredited or approved educational program if the activities and services constitute a part of a supervised course of study, if the person is designated by a title which clearly indicates his or her status as a student or trainee.
- "(4) Any person fulfilling the supervised fieldwork experience requirements of subdivision (2) of Section 34-39-8.
- "(a) There is established the Alabama State Board of Occupational Therapy.
- "(1) The board shall consist of five members, four of whom shall be involved in the practice of occupational therapy, of which one shall be an occupational therapy assistant. The remaining member shall be a member of another health profession or a member of the public with an interest in the rights or the concerns of health services. Each member of the board shall be a citizen of this state. The occupational therapy board members shall be appointed by the Governor from a list submitted by the Alabama Occupational Therapy Association. In appointing members to the board, the association and the Governor, to the extent possible, shall select those persons whose appointments ensure that the membership of the board is inclusive and reflects the racial, gender, geographic, urban/rural, and economic diversity of the

state. Those board members who are occupational therapists, of which one shall be a minority, and occupational therapy assistants shall have been engaged in rendering services to the public, teaching, or research in occupational therapy for at least three years, and shall at all times be holders of valid licenses for the practice of occupational therapy in Alabama. Except for the members in the initial board, all members who are occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants shall fulfill the requirements for licensure pursuant to this chapter. Terms of appointment for the initial board members shall be as follows: Two members shall serve a one-year term; two members shall serve a two-year term; and one member shall serve a three-year term.

- "(2) The board shall, within 90 days after April 17, 1990, be selected as provided in subdivision (1). At the expiration of the initial terms, board members shall be appointed in the same manner as initial appointments, each for a period of three years. No person shall be appointed to serve more than two three consecutive terms.
- "(3) Terms shall begin on the first day of the calendar year and end on the last day of the calendar year, or until successors are appointed, except for the initial members who shall serve through the last calendar day of the year in which they are appointed before the commencement of the terms prescribed by subdivision (1).
- "(4) Within 45 days after April 17, 1990, and annually thereafter, the association shall submit two or three

names for each position on the board to be filled. In the

event of a midterm vacancy in one of the positions on the

board, the Governor shall appoint a member to fill the

unexpired term from a list submitted by the association in the

same manner as provided in subdivision (1).

- "(5) The Governor, after notice and opportunity for hearing by the board, may remove any member of the board for neglect of duty, incompetence, revocation or suspension of the license of the member, or other dishonorable conduct. After removal, the Governor shall appoint a successor to the unexpired term from a list of two or three names submitted by the association.
- "(6) The board shall elect from its membership a chairperson, a secretary, and a treasurer. A majority of the members of the board shall constitute a quorum. The board shall meet during the first month of the calendar year to select officers. No board member may hold the same position as an officer of the board for more than two consecutive years. At least one additional meeting shall be held before the end of the calendar year. Further meetings may be convened at the call of the chairperson, or on the request of any three board members.
- "(7) Members may be reimbursed for all reasonable and necessary expenses actually incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with the laws of the State of Alabama and regulations of the State Personnel Director.

"(b) There is established a separate special revenue fund in the State Treasury known as the Alabama State Board of Occupational Therapy Fund. All receipts collected by the board pursuant to this chapter shall be deposited in this fund and used only to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

Receipts shall be disbursed only by warrant of the state Comptroller upon the State Treasurer, upon itemized vouchers approved by the chairperson. No funds shall be withdrawn or expended except as budgeted and allotted according to the provisions of Sections 41-4-80 to 41-4-96, inclusive, and Sections 41-19-1 to 41-19-12, inclusive, and only in amounts as stipulated in the general appropriations bill or other appropriation bills.

"\$34-39-7.

- "(a) The board shall administer, coordinate, and enforce this chapter.
- "(b) The board shall, within 90 days of the time at which it is appointed, notify all current practitioners of occupational therapy in the state, as identified by the American Occupational Therapy Certification Board, of the enactment of this chapter and its otherwise becoming a law.
- "(c) The board shall adopt and publish rules and regulations relating to the professional conduct to carry out the policies of this chapter, including but not limited to regulations relating to professional licensure, registration, and the establishment of ethical standards of practice. The State Board of Medical Examiners and the Alabama State Board

of Occupational Therapy must jointly approve any rule,
regulation, or policy that interprets, explains, or enumerates
the permissible acts, functions, or services rendered by an
occupational therapist, occupational therapy assistant, or
occupational therapy aide as those acts, functions, and
services are defined in Section 34-39-3. Any rule, regulation,
or policy adopted in violation of this requirement is invalid.

- "(d) The board shall evaluate the qualifications of all applicants for licensure under this chapter and shall maintain a register of all persons holding a license and a record of all inspections made.
- "(e) The board shall approve all examinations of applicants for licensure at least twice a year, shall determine the qualifications and authorize the issuance of licenses to qualified occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants, and shall renew, suspend, or revoke the licenses in the manner provided.
- "(f) The board may investigate complaints and allegations concerning the violation of this chapter and may examine witnesses, issue subpoenas, and administer oaths in connection with these investigations. Hearings may be conducted, provided reasonable public notice is given and records and minutes are kept in accordance with the rules and regulations of the board.
- "(g) The board shall make an annual report to the Governor which shall contain an account of duties performed, actions taken, and appropriate recommendations.

- 1 "(h) The board shall establish a budget in 2 accordance with the requirements of the state.
  - "(i) The board may establish and publish reasonable fees as established in Section 34-39-14.
    - "(j) The board may employ and discharge an executive secretary director and any officers and employees as may be necessary, and shall determine their duties and fix their compensation in accordance with applicable state statutes. The board shall hire and establish the responsibilities and salary of all employees.

"\$34-39-8.

"An applicant for licensure as an occupational therapist or as an occupational therapy assistant shall be a citizen of the United States or, if not a citizen of the United States, a person who is legally present in the United States with appropriate documentation from the federal government, and shall file a written application on forms provided by the board, showing to the satisfaction of the board fulfillment of all of the following requirements:

"(1) Applicant shall present evidence satisfactory to the board of having successfully completed <u>all of</u> the academic requirements of for degree or certificate conferral from an educational program in occupational therapy recognized by the board. The program shall be accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education of the American Occupational Therapy Association, Incorporated.

1	"a. For an occupational therapist, such a program
2	shall be accredited by the Accreditation Council for
3	Occupational Therapy Education of the American Occupational
4	Therapy Association, Inc.; or an individual may have
5	successfully completed the career mobility program of the
6	American Occupational Therapy Association.
7	"b. For an occupational therapy assistant, the
8	program shall be accredited by the American Occupational
9	Therapy Association, Inc.
10	"(2) Applicant shall submit to the board evidence of
11	having successfully completed a period of supervised fieldwork
12	experience at a recognized educational institution or a
13	training program approved by the educational institution where
14	he or she met the academic requirements.
15	"a. For an occupational therapist, a minimum of 24
16	weeks supervised fieldwork experience is required.
17	"b. For an occupational therapy assistant, a minimum
18	of eight weeks supervised fieldwork experience is required.
19	" $(3)$ $(2)$ Applicant shall pass an examination as
20	provided for in Section 34-39-9.
21	<b>"</b> §34-39-11.
22	"(a) The board shall issue a license to any person
23	who meets the requirements of this chapter upon payment of the
24	license fee as described in Section 34-39-14.
25	"(b) The board shall issue a limited permit to
26	persons who have completed the educational and fieldwork
27	experience requirements of this chapter. This permit shall

allow the person to practice occupational therapy under the supervision of an occupational therapist who holds a current license in this state and shall be valid until the date on which the results of the next qualifying examination have been made public. This limited permit shall not be renewed if the applicant has failed the examination. Failure of the examination shall result in revocation of an active limited permit.

- "(c) Any person who is issued a license as an occupational therapist under the terms of this chapter may use the words "occupational therapist," "licensed occupational therapist," "occupational therapist registered," or may use the letters "O.T.," "L.O.T.," or "O.T.R./L." in connection with his/her name or place of business to denote registration hereunder.
- "(d) Any person who is issued a license as an occupational therapy assistant under the terms of this chapter may use the words "occupational therapy assistant," "licensed occupational therapy assistant," "certified occupational therapy assistant," or may use the letters "O.T.A.,"

  "L.O.T.A.," or "C.O.T.A./L." in connection with his or her name or place of business to denote registration hereunder.

23 "\$34-39-16.

"(a) Any person may file a complaint with the board against any licensed occupational therapist or licensed occupational therapy assistant in the state charging the person with having violated the provisions of this chapter.

The complaint shall set forth specifications of charges in sufficient detail so as to disclose to the accused fully and completely the alleged acts of misconduct for which he or she is charged. When such a complaint is filed, the secretary of the board, or the executive director at the request of the secretary, shall mail a copy thereof to the accused by registered return receipt mail at his or her address of record, with a written notice of the time and place of hearing thereof, advising him or her that he or she may be present in person and by counsel if he or she so desires, to offer evidence and be heard in his or her defense.

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"(b) At the time and place fixed for the hearing, the board shall receive evidence upon the subject matter under consideration and shall accord the person against whom charges are preferred a full and fair opportunity to be heard in his or her defense. The board shall be bound by the rules of evidence in contested cases under Section 41-22-13 of the Alabama Administrative Procedure Statute Act and all oral testimony considered by the board must shall be under oath. If the board finds that the licensed occupational therapist or the licensed occupational therapy assistant has violated the provisions of this chapter, it shall immediately the board may suspend or revoke his or her licensure, levy a reasonable fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per violation, or restrict his or her license and require the licensee to report regularly to the board on matters related to the reasons for the restricted license, or any combination of these.

"(c) The action of the board in suspending, 1 2 revoking, or refusing to issue a license may be appealed to the Circuit Court of Montgomery County accompanied by a bond 3 to be approved by the court. The notice of appeal shall be filed within 30 days from the receipt of such order or 5 ruling. Appeals shall be governed by the judicial review 6 7 provisions of Section 41-22-20 of the Alabama Administrative Procedure Statute Act, except that the review procedure 8 provided therein shall not suspend the action of the board nor 9 10 stay the enforcement of any order in the suspension, revocation, or refusal of a license." 11 12 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the

Section 2. This act shall become effective on the first day of the third month following its passage and approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

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3	Senate	
4 5 6	Read for the first time and referred to the Senate committee on Health	14-FEB-13
7 8 9	Read for the second time and placed on the calendar 1 amendment	21-FEB-13
10	Read for the third time and passed as amended	1.6-APR-13
11 12	Yeas 29 Nays 1	
13 14 15 16 17	Patrick Harris Secretary	