

Responses to Survey - Board of Physical Therapy Examiners Total responses: 48 (of which 2 out-of-state, 2 dual licensed)

<p>Highest Compliment</p>	<p><i>Ability to monitor on behalf of licensees</i> - 26 <i>Ability to streamline Continuing Ed</i> - 7 <i>Ability to keep profession from criticism because of bad actors</i> - 8 <i>None</i> - 6 Other: Compared to other states, Montana's process is less burdensome and people accessible.-- Uphold ethical and safety complaints and disciplinary responses. -- Protect the public. - The board has been very helpful in answering questions that come up in the licensing process.</p>
<p>Biggest Complaint</p>	<p><i>Licensing fees too high</i> - 4 <i>Lack of Information</i> - 4 <i>Board's response to unlicensed practice</i> - 4 <i>Licensing renewal timelines too strict</i> - 0 <i>Regulations too strict</i> - 2 <i>None</i> - 28 Other:-- You changed the way the on-line service was set up, sent out a reminder card which was then no longer valid, then billed me a late fee because you sent out the wrong instructions. Your response to my complaint was rude, condescending and failed to accept responsibility. You abused your Fiduciary Duty by knowing I would have to pay the late fee you set me up for, then proceeded unapologetically and apparently without conscience. -- Rule changes somewhat forced through even though major opposition was voiced by licensees. -- Poor paperwork management/errors. Slow response time on issues, slow licensing process. - Redundancy when it comes to reciprocity e.g. applying for MT license when you are already licensed in another state. - Web page is not user-friendly. - Renew happens very frequently. - Becomes difficult and more expensive (verifications) as travel between states; national board would be better. -- Slow to publish minutes. Also will not allow for suspension of license if practicing in another state. - Some board members seem to think being a member is a status upgrade. Others are interested in keeping the profession an honorable service-oriented vocation to be proud of. The board can, if they are a member for the proper reason, protect not only the profession, and the public, but the professionals from all manner of unjust accusations and malignment from even their peers. Wisdom and integrity should be the most necessary and the highest qualification of the board members for, after all, they are judges. - - There is too much bureaucracy. Things could be much simpler. Getting rid of some of the old entrenched personalities with individual agendas will help make the board more realistic and functional.</p>
<p>Other reasons the board is important: - Setting a standard of competency, including among the Board. -- Their ability to be humble servants of the professionals as well as the public should be their highest goal. The professionals need to be protected from the public as well as their peers as much as the public needs to be protected from professionals. - It's necessary to ensure we are not allowing just anyone with a physical therapy degree to enter our state and practice. It helps keep consumers safe and ensures better practice. - A licensing board makes sure that we are providing the public with good quality of care. If we were not keeping tabs on the clinicians and keeping them to a higher standard then it actually makes our profession suffer. It is important to monitor things such as continuing education requirements or if a clinician has had some form of disciplinary action taken against their license. Without these safe guards it would be difficult to trust the clinicians especially in the changing face of health care. -- To regulate the profession of physical therapy, so the title won't be abused. - It is necessary for licensed physical therapists to regulate our industry vs. bureaucratic management. Representation and monitoring by peers vs non familiar government appointed individuals is one HUGE step in the wrong direction for my and all licensed professionals. - As an ethicist, I think that our society promotes the attitude that you don't have to follow the laws as long as you are not caught. There is already an unbelievable amount of fraud and abuse in our healthcare system that leads to harm in health and finances. Why would the State of Montana take away the watchdogs? Why have regulations with no teeth? Licensing Boards are an excellent expenditure of taxpayers dollars. Keep the licensing boards. -- Monitoring out-of-country PT schools for proper accreditation. - Provides new professionals with important information regarding their profession; holds all professionals accountable for their actions; and encourages continued growth of professionals through continuing education requirements. - Designed to handle and address issues or problems related to professional performance, conduct in providing therapy services. - A Board helps assure the quality of our Profession and helps protect therapists as well as consumers, making sure that therapists continue to meet a minimal requirement. The board is also helps keep scope of practice intact, allowing us to be a professional. - To control the abuse of our profession. - For transferring license to other states. Without a licensing board with high standards, other states would not accept licensed people from Montana. - Potentially limits encroachment by other professions by defining practice regulations and guidelines. (continued next page).</p>	

Other reasons the board is important (continued): - It is important that those licensed by the Board practice within their scope of practice. The Board is the only entity that can do that. - The board helps to set a standard of care/competence for our profession. - The board needs to stand up for its members and protect them as well.

Public Health - 2	Public Welfare -	Public Safety - 10	None of these - 4	All or combination - 27
Scope of Practice:	Too Narrow - 8	Too Broad - 1		Just Right - 37

Problems with own or other professions' scope of practice - None with own profession = 38 Yes - 10 With Board of Chiropractors - 3
 With Board of Massage Therapy - 4 With Board of Occupational Therapy - 3

-- **Comment regarding too broad a scope:** The dry needling debate recently has brought this to mind, the verbiage of the practice act isn't specific on dry needling, so some people are dry needling and some not using the same verbiage for their argument.

-- **Comments regarding too narrow a scope:** The ability to practice in the Great State of Montana is not limited nearly as much as some surrounding states. In general I want to see the push for the ability to maintain an autonomous practice. - New treatment methods need to be researched and approved more quickly. - This state's practice act is very vague and incomplete. It needs to be updated to ensure we do not enter into scope of practice issues with other professions and to ensure the public knows what physical therapists can help with/do for them.

-- **Comments regarding just right scope:** For the most part, it is just right. while there are certain treatment techniques that are becoming popular, but not specifically in the practice act, (such as dry needling). If a practitioner from another states has this expertise but unable to use it here in Montana, then that would be frustrating. On the other hand, someone who 'read' an article about it certainly has no business performing that skill. -- We are trained to do what we do. We are given the appropriate level of freedom assuming we are wise and know where our limits are. - Physical Therapy covers a broad variety of movement dysfunction/disorders that occur during a lifetime. We treat people with neurologic disease and disorders, orthopedic trauma, orthopedic disease, cardiac and pulmonary disease, wounds, incontinence, and much more. Our focus is optimal functioning in daily life and in the community. - The Physical Therapy scope of practice is appropriate, but needs to be updated some. - I do not think that dry needling should be included in our licensing, unless there are more education requirements. - As our Profession continues to grow our scope of practice will need to grow with it. With most PT programs changing to a DPT our scope of practice will need to change to reflect that change. Our scope of practice is OK now but it needs to have the flexibility to adjust as our Profession adjusts. - It allows a specificity of practice that restricts an individual to certain type of training/ skills, and does not allow for getting into other areas of medical practice. - It allows us the freedom to practice physical therapy in our patients' best interests but remains within the scope of our education. - As a Physical Therapist Assistant in Montana, the public requires education about the skills offered by a PT Asst. The use of a PT Asst. is still questioned by some, and thankfully recognized by others. I feel the working relationship between the PT and PTA is still in a developing stage for the best care of patients.

What laws/regulations have caused the most problems? None = 5

Regulations on physical therapy aides (5). PTAs used to be much more helpful in the clinic and now are restricted to more office duties. This also leads to poor growth in the profession as these individuals in the past have been those most likely to go on to graduate and doctoral programs in the profession.-- A well qualified/ trained Aide can be a lot of help to therapist by helping perform some of the exercise, heat/cold modality parts of a treatment that do not require specialized training, education. -- Changing how we use aides in our practice but I believe that it was done with good intentions and goes along with other changes that are surely coming with regards to healthcare. - Regs on PTAs too restrictive for rural facilities. This severely limits efficiency in service delivery. - Online registration was challenging as the bugs were being worked out. - The change of continuous testing to fixed testing for new licensees was very challenging for new professionals last year to graduate, take the test, and begin working within a confined timeline. - Continuing education requirements (2). CE different for all states in amount required and time frame, so difficult to keep track of and maintain licenses. Too expensive to maintain licenses in states if not sure when or if returning to that state. -- Board has to accept that quality and interest of continuing education is more important than taking a class just to get hours. For example in certain practice settings audiovisual and webseminars offer much greater value and content, and right now there is a limit to 4 hours of online instruction. - Rigid requirements of documentation.

Consumer complaint filed?	No = 44 Yes = 2 Board was not effective = 2 of which one comment: The Board of Massage Therapy has done nothing to clarify their scope of practice and will let a "licensed massage therapist" do anything short of surgery.
Nonlicensee comments	Saying Board of Physical Therapy Examiners: Necessary for Public Health - 221, Public Safety - 130, Public Welfare - 112. Of 1346 respondents some marked all or a combination.

as of June 2013: #2, 24