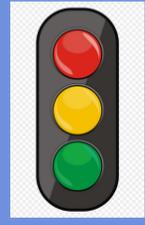


A Roadmap for Making Changes to the TN OT Practice Act



Note: The Practice Act is also referred to as the TN OT Rules and Regulations. These names are interchangeable

Cassandra Howe, OTD/S, Cindy DeRuiter Blackwell OTD, OTR/L

Start

1 Identify

Identify desired changes to be made to the practice act, formulate what those changes should look like with input from a small group of stakeholders and subject matter experts.

2 Consult

This group then consults with lobbyists and other legal experts to get input about the desired changes and begins to draft formal language for the changes.

3 Sponsors

Identify sponsors in the TN house and senate to introduce legislation that would make changes to the practice act. The sponsors then submit the drafted changes which are either accepted or denied. If accepted a bill is then drafted.

4 Into the System

The submitted bill then goes into the legislative system that can be tracked using the QR code below.



5 Advocate

TNOTA representatives and lobbyists advocate/lobby the appropriate committees to ensure the passage of the bill.

6 Committees

The bill travels through relevant committees to be voted on until it reaches the full house and senate floors for a vote.

7 The Bill is Passed

With successful advocacy and lobbying, the bill passes the house and senate floor by majority vote.

8 A Law is Born

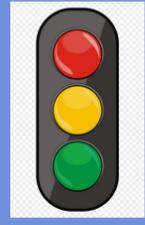
The Tennessee Governor then signs off on the newly passed legislation officially making it into law.



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9 Licensure Board

Once the law is signed off on, then the OT licensure board drafts rules on how to implement the new law. These rules are usually drafted with input from a group of expert OT practitioners in Tennessee.

10 The Final Vote

The OT licensure board then reviews those rules and votes on whether to adopt them in an open meeting with OT practitioners and stakeholders present in the audience. A final level of approval is needed before it can be enacted as a law.

11 Official Change

Once the final approval of the rules is complete the change is officially adopted into the state's OT practice act!



Additional Details

- This document outlines the steps TNOTA goes through to make changes to the practice act, however, anyone has the authority to move through these same steps to propose/make changes to the practice act should they want to.
- All throughout this process TNOTA representatives and lobbyists are working with stakeholders impacted by the bill.
- These steps take place across a single state legislative session (approximately 4 months). If a bill gets stuck by not reaching a majority vote in one of the committees along the way it may be addressed again in future sessions.

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