

**STATE OF WISCONSIN
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS AFFILIATED CREDENTIALING BOARD**

IN THE MATTER OF RULE-MAKING :
PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE : **REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE**
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS : **ON CLEARINGHOUSE RULE 06-115**
AFFILIATED CREDENTIALING : **(s. 227.19 (3), Stats.)**
BOARD :

I. THE PROPOSED RULE:

The proposed rule, including the analysis and text, is attached.

II. REFERENCE TO APPLICABLE FORMS:

No new or revised forms are required by these rules.

III. FISCAL ESTIMATES:

The department finds that the proposed rule will have no significant fiscal impact.

IV. STATEMENT EXPLAINING NEED:

This proposed rule-making will allow the Occupational Therapists Affiliated Credentialing Board to consider waiving the continuing education requirements when a licensee is unable to complete them due to a hardship. It will also eliminate the need for first time licensees to meet continuing education requirements in the first cycle of licensure.

The rules of other professions permit credentialing authorities to consider circumstances that interfere with completion of continuing education obligations. Without such a provision, applicants may delay filing for a license during the first cycle of licensure to avoid fulfilling the complete continuing education obligation on an abbreviated timeline. This could have an adverse impact on patient care, depending on the demand for occupational therapists at any given time.

V. NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING:

A public hearing was held on November 14, 2006.

Linda M. Anderson, MS, OTR, President, Wisconsin Occupational Therapy Association, Madison, WI, appeared in support of the proposed rules. There were no other appearances at the public hearing and no written comments were received.

VI. RESPONSE TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

The recommendation suggested in the Clearinghouse Report was accepted in whole.

VII. FINAL REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY ANALYSIS:

These rules will have no significant economic impact on small businesses, as defined in s. 227.114 (1), Stats.