

BILL ANALYSIS

DATE: 4/15/09

COMMITTEE: Consumer Protection and
Professional Licensure

BILL NO.: SB 187

PRIME SPONSOR: Senator Greenleaf

PRINTER'S NO.: 157

BILL SUMMARY

This bill amends the Occupational Therapy Practice Act.

The legislation would raise the per diem paid to board members from \$30 to \$60. The bill, consistent with changes made in Act 48 of 2007, allows a licensed certified registered nurse practitioner or licensed physician assistant to make a referral for the implementation of occupational therapy. Senate bill 187 establishes a continuing competency requirement for occupational therapy assistants.

The bill would create an impaired professionals program. The board shall hire the services of a professional consultant to act as a liaison between the board and treatment programs for licensees with physical or mental impairments. Senate bill 187 would authorize the board to defer and ultimately dismiss any of the types of corrective action for an impaired professional if he is progressing satisfactorily in an approved treatment program. A licensee that has been convicted of a felony prohibited by the Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act would be barred from participating in the program.

The bill provides for the requirements to enter into the program. It also provides for mandatory reporting of impairment or diversion of drugs.

The bill would take effect in 60 days.