

THE FLORIDA SENATE
2016 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED
Committee on Health Policy

SB 450 — Physical Therapy

by Senators Grimsley, Clemens, and Joyner

The bill authorizes a physical therapist to implement a plan of treatment provided for a patient by a physician licensed in a state other than Florida. The bill increases the time frame for which a physical therapist can provide physical therapy treatment to a patient for a condition not previously assessed by a practitioner of record or a physician licensed in another state. The time frame is increased from 21 days to 30 days.

The bill authorizes any person who holds a physical therapy license, and obtains a degree of Doctor of Physical Therapy, to use the letters “D.P.T.” and “P.T.” However, a physical therapist may not use the title “doctor” without also clearly informing the public of his or her profession as a physical therapist.

The bill revises terms prohibited from use by a person who is not licensed as a physical therapist or a physical therapist assistant and makes it a first degree misdemeanor to falsely represent licensure or to obtain a license by false representation.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect upon becoming law.

Vote: Senate 37-0; House 117-0