

By Senators Albritton and Harrell

25-00774A-20

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to physical therapy; amending s.  
 3           486.021, F.S.; revising the definitions of the terms  
 4           "physical therapy assessment" and "practice of  
 5           physical therapy"; amending s. 486.025, F.S.; revising  
 6           the powers and duties of the Board of Physical Therapy  
 7           Practice; providing an effective date.

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 9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 11           Section 1. Subsections (10) and (11) of section 486.021,  
 12 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

13           486.021 Definitions.—In this chapter, unless the context  
 14 otherwise requires, the term:

15           (10) "Physical therapy assessment" means observational,  
 16 verbal, or manual determinations of the function of the human  
 17 movement systems ~~musculoskeletal or neuromuscular system~~  
 18 relative to physical therapy, including, but not limited to,  
 19 range of motion of a joint, motor power, motor control, posture  
 20 ~~postural attitudes~~, biomechanical function, locomotion, or  
 21 functional abilities, for the purpose of physical therapy ~~making~~  
 22 ~~recommendations for~~ treatment.

23           (11) "Practice of physical therapy" means the performance  
 24 of physical therapy assessments and the treatment of any  
 25 disability, injury, disease, or other health condition of human  
 26 beings, or the prevention of such disability, injury, disease,  
 27 or other health ~~condition of health~~, and the ~~the~~ rehabilitation of  
 28 such disability, injury, disease, or other health condition ~~as~~  
 29 ~~related thereto~~ by alleviating impairments, functional

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30 limitations, and disabilities by designing, implementing, and  
31 modifying treatment interventions through therapeutic exercise;  
32 functional training in self-care and in-home, community, or work  
33 integration or reintegration; manual therapy; therapeutic  
34 massage; airway clearance techniques; maintaining and restoring  
35 integumentary integrity and wound care; physical agents or  
36 modalities; mechanical and electrotherapeutic modalities;  
37 patient-related instruction ~~the use of the physical, chemical,~~  
38 ~~and other properties of air; electricity; exercise; massage; the~~  
39 ~~performance of acupuncture only upon compliance with the~~  
40 ~~criteria set forth by the Board of Medicine, when no penetration~~  
41 ~~of the skin occurs; the use of radiant energy, including~~  
42 ~~ultraviolet, visible, and infrared rays; ultrasound; water; the~~  
43 ~~use of apparatus and equipment in the application of such~~  
44 treatment, prevention, or rehabilitation ~~the foregoing or~~  
45 ~~related thereto;~~ the performance of tests of neuromuscular  
46 functions as an aid to the diagnosis or treatment of any human  
47 condition; or the performance of electromyography as an aid to  
48 the diagnosis of any human condition only upon compliance with  
49 the criteria set forth by the Board of Medicine.

50 (a) A physical therapist may implement a plan of treatment  
51 developed by the physical therapist for a patient or provided  
52 for a patient by a practitioner of record or by an advanced  
53 practice registered nurse licensed under s. 464.012. The  
54 physical therapist shall refer the patient to or consult with a  
55 practitioner of record if the patient's condition is found to be  
56 outside the scope of physical therapy. If physical therapy  
57 treatment for a patient is required beyond 30 days for a  
58 condition not previously assessed by a practitioner of record,

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59 the physical therapist shall have a practitioner of record  
60 review and sign the plan. The requirement that a physical  
61 therapist have a practitioner of record review and sign a plan  
62 of treatment does not apply when a patient has been physically  
63 examined by a physician licensed in another state, the patient  
64 has been diagnosed by the physician as having a condition for  
65 which physical therapy is required, and the physical therapist  
66 is treating the condition. For purposes of this paragraph, a  
67 health care practitioner licensed under chapter 458, chapter  
68 459, chapter 460, chapter 461, or chapter 466 and engaged in  
69 active practice is eligible to serve as a practitioner of  
70 record.

71 (b) The use of roentgen rays and radium for diagnostic and  
72 therapeutic purposes and the use of electricity for surgical  
73 purposes, including cauterization, are not "physical therapy"  
74 for purposes of this chapter.

75 (c) The practice of physical therapy does not authorize a  
76 physical therapy practitioner to practice chiropractic medicine  
77 as defined in chapter 460, including specific spinal  
78 manipulation. For the performance of specific chiropractic  
79 spinal manipulation, a physical therapist shall refer the  
80 patient to a health care practitioner licensed under chapter  
81 460.

82 (d) This subsection does not authorize a physical therapist  
83 to implement a plan of treatment for a patient currently being  
84 treated in a facility licensed pursuant to chapter 395.

85 Section 2. Section 486.025, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
86 read:

87 486.025 Powers and duties of the Board of Physical Therapy

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88 Practice.—The board may administer oaths, summon witnesses, take  
89 testimony in all matters relating to its duties under this  
90 chapter, establish or modify minimum standards of the practice  
91 of physical therapy as defined in s. 486.021, including, but not  
92 limited to, standards for the performance of dry needling by  
93 physical therapists, and adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1)  
94 and 120.54 to implement ~~the provisions of~~ this chapter. The  
95 board may also review the standing and reputability of any  
96 school or college offering courses in physical therapy and  
97 whether the courses of such school or college in physical  
98 therapy meet the standards established by the appropriate  
99 accrediting agency referred to in s. 486.031(3)(a). In  
100 determining the standing and reputability of any such school and  
101 whether the school and courses meet such standards, the board  
102 may investigate and personally inspect the school and courses  
103 ~~make personal inspection of the same.~~

104 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.