

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	9 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Bonamici, Bruun, Cannon, Flores, Gelser, Kotek, Maurer, Richardson, Greenlick
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	1/25 (policy sub), 3/22 (policy sub), 3/23 (full)

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows a licensed physical therapist who has received the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree to specify the professional designation. Prohibits a person or business entity from representing themselves as a provider of physical therapy services unless the services are performed by a licensed physical therapist. Extends specified circumstances for a physical therapist to refer a patient to another health care practitioner.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Current authority for using the title “Doctor”
- Current and proposed access/referral requirement
- Protection of the term “physical therapy”
- Clarification on using the title “Doctor” and “Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT)”
- Potential confusion associated with the definition of physical therapy versus physical medication
- Modality of treatments
- Review of current physical therapy education requirements
- Concerns with direct access and current physical therapy statutory definition

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Deletes language that prohibits a person from representing themselves as a provider of physical therapy services. Clarifies language for persons using the title “Doctor.” Specifies that referral to the primary care physician is modified from 30 days to 45 days.

BACKGROUND: The practice of physical therapy is governed by state statutes and rules that define the scope of practice. The 2005 Legislative Assembly enacted House Bill 3260, the Physical Therapy Practice Act, which had several major components: a new definition of physical therapist aide; redefining of the practice of physical therapy; additional licensing and renewal requirements; expansion of the Physical Therapy Board’s authority to impose sanctions; and the modification of the board’s membership requirements.