

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 3 - 0 - 2

Yeas: George G., Kruse, Morrisette

Nays: 0

Exc.: Monnes Anderson, Verger

Prepared By: Ilana Weinbaum, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 5/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Extends period for which physical therapist can treat a patient before being required to refer to another health care practitioner from 30 to 60 days. Clarifies conditions under which licensed health care professionals acting with scope of practice, physical therapy students and physical therapists licensed in another jurisdiction are exempt from licensure requirements.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Comparison of training requirements for physical therapists and chiropractors
- Diagnosing competence of trained physical therapists
- Measure does not influence insurance companies' ability to require referral
- A-engrossed measure extended direct access to physical therapists from 30 to 45 days
- Types of complaints received by the Oregon Physical Therapist Licensing Board

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Removes language that allows a licensed physical therapist, with a doctoral degree in physical therapy, to use the professional designation "doctor of physical therapy." Extends period for which physical therapist can continue therapy before being required to refer to another health practitioner from 45 to 60 days. Removes exemption from licensing requirement for massage practiced in athletic clubs or athletic departments of fraternal organizations, schools and colleges. Specifies that persons licensed by a state health care licensing law and acting within the scope of practice are exempt from licensure requirements if they do not represent or imply that they are a physical therapist or assistant. Clarifies conditions under which a physical therapy student is exempt for licensure requirements. Clarifies conditions under which a physical therapist licensed in another jurisdiction is exempt from licensure requirements.

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.

Under current statute (ORS 688.132), physical therapists are required to refer patients to a medical doctor, osteopathic physician, chiropractic physician, podiatric physician and surgeon, naturopathic physician, dentist, physician assistant or nurse practitioner after they have treated a person for 30 days. HB 2386 A allowed physical therapists to treat patients for 45 days before requiring a referral and HB 2386 B extends this period to 60 days.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.