

**PRELIMINARY** STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

CARRIER:

House Committee on Health Care

**REVENUE: No revenue impact**

**FISCAL: No fiscal impact**

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**Action:**

**Vote:**

**Yeas:**

**Nays:**

**Exc.:**

**Prepared By:** Tyler Larson, Administrator

**Meeting Dates:** 2/25

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Changes circumstances under which licensed physical therapist must refer person to medical doctor, osteopathic physician, chiropractic physician, podiatric physician and surgeon, naturopathic physician, dentist, physician assistant or nurse practitioner.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Direct access to physical therapists
- Impact of direct access on patients

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

**BACKGROUND:** Physical therapists (PTs) aid the remediation of impairments and disabilities and the promotion of mobility and movement potential through examination, diagnosis and physical intervention. Current statute requires a PT to refer a person to another medical professional if 60 days have passed since the initial physical therapy treatment was administered and lists limited exceptions to this rule.

House Bill 2684 removes the 60 day rule, allowing patients direct access to physical therapists.