

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to physical therapy; amending s. 486.021,
 3 F.S.; revising definitions; removing a provision relating
 4 to physical therapy treatments needed beyond 21 days;
 5 amending s. 486.135, F.S.; prohibiting unlicensed physical
 6 therapists from using the letters "D.P.T." to represent
 7 themselves; 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 (9), (10), and (11) of section
 12 486.021, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

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

15 (9) "Direct supervision" means supervision by a physical
 16 therapist who is licensed pursuant to this chapter. Except in a
 17 case of emergency, direct supervision requires the physical
 18 presence of the licensed physical therapist for consultation and
 19 direction ~~of the actions of a physical therapist or physical~~
 20 ~~therapist assistant who is practicing under a temporary permit~~
 21 ~~and who is a candidate for licensure by examination.~~

22 (10) "Physical therapy evaluation ~~assessment~~" means
 23 observational, verbal, or manual determinations of the function
 24 of the musculoskeletal or neuromuscular system relative to
 25 physical therapy, including, but not limited to, range of motion
 26 of a joint, motor power, postural attitudes, biomechanical
 27 function, locomotion, or functional abilities, for the purpose

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28 | of making a physical therapy diagnosis and recommendations for
29 | treatment.

30 | (11) "Practice of physical therapy" means the performance
31 | of physical therapy evaluations ~~assessments~~ and the treatment of
32 | any disability, injury, disease, or other health condition of
33 | human beings, or the prevention of such disability, injury,
34 | disease, or other condition of health, and rehabilitation as
35 | related thereto by the use of the physical, chemical, and other
36 | properties of air; electricity; exercise; massage; the
37 | performance of acupuncture only upon compliance with the
38 | criteria set forth by the Board of Medicine, when no penetration
39 | of the skin occurs; the use of radiant energy, including
40 | ultraviolet, visible, and infrared rays; ultrasound; water; the
41 | use of apparatus and equipment in the application of the
42 | foregoing or related thereto; the performance of tests of
43 | neuromuscular functions as an aid to the diagnosis or treatment
44 | of any human condition; or the performance of electromyography
45 | as an aid to the diagnosis of any human condition only upon
46 | compliance with the criteria set forth by the Board of Medicine.
47 | A physical therapist may implement a plan of treatment for a
48 | patient. The physical therapist shall refer the patient to or
49 | consult with a health care practitioner licensed under chapter
50 | 458, chapter 459, chapter 460, chapter 461, or chapter 466, if
51 | the patient's condition is found to be outside the scope of
52 | physical therapy. ~~If physical therapy treatment for a patient is
53 | required beyond 21 days for a condition not previously assessed
54 | by a practitioner of record, the physical therapist shall obtain
55 | a practitioner of record who will review and sign the plan. A~~

56 ~~health care practitioner licensed under chapter 458, chapter~~
 57 ~~459, chapter 460, chapter 461, or chapter 466 and engaged in~~
 58 ~~active practice is eligible to serve as a practitioner of~~
 59 ~~record.~~ The use of roentgen rays and radium for diagnostic and
 60 therapeutic purposes and the use of electricity for surgical
 61 purposes, including cauterization, are not authorized under the
 62 term "physical therapy" as used in this chapter. The practice of
 63 physical therapy as defined in this chapter does not authorize a
 64 physical therapy practitioner to practice chiropractic medicine
 65 as defined in chapter 460, including specific spinal
 66 manipulation. For the performance of specific chiropractic
 67 spinal manipulation, a physical therapist shall refer the
 68 patient to a health care practitioner licensed under chapter
 69 460. Nothing in this subsection authorizes a physical therapist
 70 to implement a plan of treatment for a patient currently being
 71 treated in a facility licensed pursuant to chapter 395.

72 Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section
 73 486.135, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

74 486.135 False representation of licensure, or willful
 75 misrepresentation or fraudulent representation to obtain
 76 license, unlawful.--

77 (1)(a) It is unlawful for any person who is not licensed
 78 under this chapter as a physical therapist, or whose license has
 79 been suspended or revoked, to use in connection with her or his
 80 name or place of business the words "physical therapist,"
 81 "physiotherapist," "physical therapy," "physiotherapy,"
 82 "registered physical therapist," or "licensed physical
 83 therapist"; or the letters "D.P.T.," "P.T.," "Ph.T.," "R.P.T.,"

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84 or "L.P.T."; or any other words, letters, abbreviations, or
85 insignia indicating or implying that she or he is a physical
86 therapist or to represent herself or himself as a physical
87 therapist in any other way, orally, in writing, in print, or by
88 sign, directly or by implication, unless physical therapy
89 services are provided or supplied by a physical therapist
90 licensed in accordance with this chapter.

91 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.