

By Senator Detert

28-00687-13

2013536__

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to physical therapy; amending s.
3 486.021, F.S.; authorizing physical therapists to
4 implement physical therapy treatment plans of a
5 specified duration which are provided by advanced
6 registered nurse practitioners; providing an effective
7 date.

8
9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

10
11 Section 1. Subsection (11) of section 486.021, Florida
12 Statutes, is amended to read:

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

15 (11) "Practice of physical therapy" means the performance
16 of physical therapy assessments and the treatment of any
17 disability, injury, disease, or other health condition of human
18 beings, or the prevention of such disability, injury, disease,
19 or other condition of health, and rehabilitation as related
20 thereto by the use of the physical, chemical, and other
21 properties of air; electricity; exercise; massage; the
22 performance of acupuncture only upon compliance with the
23 criteria set forth by the Board of Medicine, when no penetration
24 of the skin occurs; the use of radiant energy, including
25 ultraviolet, visible, and infrared rays; ultrasound; water; the
26 use of apparatus and equipment in the application of the
27 foregoing or related thereto; the performance of tests of
28 neuromuscular functions as an aid to the diagnosis or treatment
29 of any human condition; or the performance of electromyography

28-00687-13

2013536__

30 as an aid to the diagnosis of any human condition only upon
31 compliance with the criteria set forth by the Board of Medicine.

32 (a) A physical therapist may implement a plan of treatment
33 provided for a patient by a practitioner of record or by an
34 advanced registered nurse practitioner licensed under s.
35 464.012. The physical therapist shall refer the patient to or
36 consult with a ~~health care practitioner of record licensed under~~
37 ~~chapter 458, chapter 459, chapter 460, chapter 461, or chapter~~
38 ~~466,~~ if the patient's condition is found to be outside the scope
39 of physical therapy. If physical therapy treatment for a patient
40 is required beyond 21 days for a condition not previously
41 assessed by a practitioner of record, the physical therapist
42 shall obtain a practitioner of record who will review and sign
43 the plan. For purposes of this paragraph, a health care
44 practitioner licensed under chapter 458, chapter 459, chapter
45 460, chapter 461, or chapter 466 and engaged in active practice
46 is eligible to serve as a practitioner of record.

47 (b) The use of roentgen rays and radium for diagnostic and
48 therapeutic purposes and the use of electricity for surgical
49 purposes, including cauterization, are not ~~authorized under the~~
50 ~~term~~ "physical therapy" for purposes of ~~as used in~~ this chapter.

51 (c) The practice of physical therapy ~~as defined in this~~
52 ~~chapter~~ does not authorize a physical therapy practitioner to
53 practice chiropractic medicine as defined in chapter 460,
54 including specific spinal manipulation. For the performance of
55 specific chiropractic spinal manipulation, a physical therapist
56 shall refer the patient to a health care practitioner licensed
57 under chapter 460.

58 (d) ~~Nothing in~~ This subsection does not authorize

28-00687-13

2013536__

59 ~~authorizes~~ a physical therapist to implement a plan of treatment
60 for a patient currently being treated in a facility licensed
61 pursuant to chapter 395.

62 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.