

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to physical therapy; amending s.  
3           486.021, F.S.; revising the definition of the term  
4           "practice of physical therapy"; amending s. 486.081,  
5           F.S.; providing that a licensed physical therapist who  
6           holds a specified doctoral degree may use specified  
7           letters in connection with her or his name or place of  
8           business; prohibiting a physical therapist with a  
9           specified doctoral degree from using the title  
10          "doctor" without informing the public of his or her  
11          profession as a physical therapist; amending s.  
12          486.135, F.S.; revising the terms prohibited from use  
13          by a person who is not licensed as a physical  
14          therapist or physical therapist assistant; providing  
15          an effective date.

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17   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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19           Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (11) of section  
20   486.021, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

21           486.021 Definitions.—In this chapter, unless the context  
22   otherwise requires, the term:

23           (11) "Practice of physical therapy" means the performance  
24   of physical therapy assessments and the treatment of any  
25   disability, injury, disease, or other health condition of human  
26   beings, or the prevention of such disability, injury, disease,

27 | or other condition of health, and rehabilitation as related  
28 | thereto by the use of the physical, chemical, and other  
29 | properties of air; electricity; exercise; massage; the  
30 | performance of acupuncture only upon compliance with the  
31 | criteria set forth by the Board of Medicine, when no penetration  
32 | of the skin occurs; the use of radiant energy, including  
33 | ultraviolet, visible, and infrared rays; ultrasound; water; the  
34 | use of apparatus and equipment in the application of the  
35 | foregoing or related thereto; the performance of tests of  
36 | neuromuscular functions as an aid to the diagnosis or treatment  
37 | of any human condition; or the performance of electromyography  
38 | as an aid to the diagnosis of any human condition only upon  
39 | compliance with the criteria set forth by the Board of Medicine.

40 | (a) A physical therapist may implement a plan of treatment  
41 | developed by the physical therapist for a patient or provided  
42 | for a patient by a practitioner of record, ~~or~~ by an advanced  
43 | registered nurse practitioner licensed under s. 464.012, or by a  
44 | physician licensed in another state. The physical therapist  
45 | shall refer the patient to or consult with a practitioner of  
46 | record if the patient's condition is found to be outside the  
47 | scope of physical therapy. If physical therapy treatment for a  
48 | patient is required beyond 42 ~~21~~ days for a condition not  
49 | previously assessed by a practitioner of record, or by a  
50 | physician licensed in another state, the physical therapist  
51 | shall obtain a practitioner of record who will review and sign  
52 | the plan. For purposes of this paragraph, a health care

53 practitioner licensed under chapter 458, chapter 459, chapter  
54 460, chapter 461, or chapter 466 and engaged in active practice  
55 is eligible to serve as a practitioner of record.

56 Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 486.081, Florida  
57 Statutes, is amended to read:

58 486.081 Physical therapist; issuance of license without  
59 examination to person passing examination of another authorized  
60 examining board; fee.—

61 (1) The board may cause a license to be issued through the  
62 department without examination to any applicant who presents  
63 evidence satisfactory to the board of having passed the American  
64 Registry Examination prior to 1971 or an examination in physical  
65 therapy before a similar lawfully authorized examining board of  
66 another state, the District of Columbia, a territory, or a  
67 foreign country, if the standards for licensure in physical  
68 therapy in such other state, district, territory, or foreign  
69 country are determined by the board to be as high as those of  
70 this state, as established by rules adopted pursuant to this  
71 chapter. Any person who holds a license pursuant to this section  
72 may use the words "physical therapist" or "physiotherapist~~7~~" or  
73 the letters "P.T.~~7~~" in connection with her or his name or place  
74 of business to denote her or his licensure hereunder. Any person  
75 who holds a license pursuant to this section and obtains a  
76 doctoral degree in physical therapy may use the letters "D.P.T."  
77 or "P.T." A physical therapist who holds a degree of Doctor of  
78 Physical Therapy may not use the title "doctor" without also

79 clearly informing the public of his or her profession as a  
80 physical therapist.

81 Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 486.135, Florida  
82 Statutes, is amended to read:

83 486.135 False representation of licensure, or willful  
84 misrepresentation or fraudulent representation to obtain  
85 license, unlawful.—

86 (1) (a) It is unlawful for any person who is not licensed  
87 under this chapter as a physical therapist, or whose license has  
88 been suspended or revoked, to use in connection with her or his  
89 name or place of business the words "physical therapist,"  
90 "physiotherapist," "physical therapy," "physiotherapy,"  
91 "registered physical therapist," or "licensed physical  
92 therapist"; or the letters "P.T." or "D.P.T." ~~"Ph.T.,"~~  
93 ~~"R.P.T.," or "L.P.T.";~~ or any other words, letters,  
94 abbreviations, or insignia indicating or implying that she or he  
95 is a physical therapist or to represent herself or himself as a  
96 physical therapist in any other way, orally, in writing, in  
97 print, or by sign, directly or by implication, unless physical  
98 therapy services are provided or supplied by a physical  
99 therapist licensed in accordance with this chapter.

100 (b) It is unlawful for any person who is not licensed  
101 under this chapter as a physical therapist assistant, or whose  
102 license has been suspended or revoked, to use in connection with  
103 her or his name the words "physical therapist assistant,"  
104 ~~"licensed physical therapist assistant," "registered physical~~

105 | ~~therapist assistant, " or "physical therapy technician"; or the~~  
106 | ~~letters "P.T.A.," "L.P.T.A.," "R.P.T.A.," or "P.T.T.";~~ or any  
107 | other words, letters, abbreviations, or insignia indicating or  
108 | implying that she or he is a physical therapist assistant or to  
109 | represent herself or himself as a physical therapist assistant  
110 | in any other way, orally, in writing, in print, or by sign,  
111 | directly or by implication.

112 | Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.