

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to physical therapy practice; amending
 3 s. 486.021, F.S.; revising the definitions of the
 4 terms "physical therapy assessment" and "practice of
 5 physical therapy"; amending s. 486.025, F.S.; revising
 6 the powers and duties of the Board of Physical Therapy
 7 Practice; 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 (10) and (11) of section 486.021,
 12 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

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

15 (10) "Physical therapy assessment" means observational,
 16 verbal, or manual determinations of the function of the movement
 17 ~~musculoskeletal or neuromuscular~~ system relative to physical
 18 therapy, including, but not limited to, range of motion of a
 19 joint, motor power, motor control, posture ~~postural attitudes~~,
 20 biomechanical function, locomotion, or functional abilities, for
 21 the purpose of physical therapy ~~making recommendations for~~
 22 treatment.

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 health condition ~~of health~~, and the rehabilitation of
28 | such disability, injury, disease, or other health condition as
29 | ~~related thereto~~ by alleviating impairments, functional
30 | limitations, and disabilities by designing, implementing, and
31 | modifying treatment interventions through therapeutic exercise;
32 | functional training in self-care and in-home, community, or work
33 | integration or reintegration; manual therapy; therapeutic
34 | massage; airway clearance techniques; maintaining and restoring
35 | the integumentary system and wound care; physical agent or
36 | modality; mechanical or electrotherapeutic modality; patient-
37 | related instruction ~~the use of the physical, chemical, and other~~
38 | ~~properties of air; electricity; exercise; massage; the~~
39 | ~~performance of acupuncture only upon compliance with the~~
40 | ~~criteria set forth by the Board of Medicine, when no penetration~~
41 | ~~of the skin occurs; the use of radiant energy, including~~
42 | ~~ultraviolet, visible, and infrared rays; ultrasound; water; the~~
43 | use of apparatus and equipment in the application of such
44 | rehabilitation ~~the foregoing or related thereto~~; the performance
45 | of tests of neuromuscular functions as an aid to the diagnosis
46 | or treatment of any human condition; or the performance of
47 | electromyography as an aid to the diagnosis of any human
48 | condition only upon compliance with the criteria set forth by
49 | the Board of Medicine.

50 | (a) A physical therapist may implement a plan of treatment

51 developed by the physical therapist for a patient or provided
52 for a patient by a practitioner of record or by an advanced
53 practice registered nurse licensed under s. 464.012. The
54 physical therapist shall refer the patient to or consult with a
55 practitioner of record if the patient's condition is found to be
56 outside the scope of physical therapy. If physical therapy
57 treatment for a patient is required beyond 30 days for a
58 condition not previously assessed by a practitioner of record,
59 the physical therapist shall have a practitioner of record
60 review and sign the plan. The requirement that a physical
61 therapist have a practitioner of record review and sign a plan
62 of treatment does not apply when a patient has been physically
63 examined by a physician licensed in another state, the patient
64 has been diagnosed by the physician as having a condition for
65 which physical therapy is required, and the physical therapist
66 is treating the condition. For purposes of this paragraph, a
67 health care practitioner licensed under chapter 458, chapter
68 459, chapter 460, chapter 461, or chapter 466 and engaged in
69 active practice is eligible to serve as a practitioner of
70 record.

71 (b) The use of roentgen rays and radium for diagnostic and
72 therapeutic purposes and the use of electricity for surgical
73 purposes, including cauterization, are not "physical therapy"
74 for purposes of this chapter.

75 (c) The practice of physical therapy does not authorize a

76 | physical therapy practitioner to practice chiropractic medicine
77 | as defined in chapter 460, including specific spinal
78 | manipulation. For the performance of specific chiropractic
79 | spinal manipulation, a physical therapist shall refer the
80 | patient to a health care practitioner licensed under chapter
81 | 460.

82 | (d) This subsection does not authorize a physical
83 | therapist to implement a plan of treatment for a patient
84 | currently being treated in a facility licensed pursuant to
85 | chapter 395.

86 | Section 2. Section 486.025, Florida Statutes, is amended
87 | to read:

88 | 486.025 Powers and duties of the Board of Physical Therapy
89 | Practice.—The board may administer oaths, summon witnesses, take
90 | testimony in all matters relating to its duties under this
91 | chapter, establish or modify minimum standards of practice of
92 | physical therapy as defined in s. 486.021, including, without
93 | limitation, standards of practice for the performance of dry
94 | needling by physical therapists, and adopt rules pursuant to ss.
95 | 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement ~~the provisions of this~~
96 | chapter. The board may also review the standing and reputability
97 | of any school or college offering courses in physical therapy
98 | and whether the courses of such school or college in physical
99 | therapy meet the standards established by the appropriate
100 | accrediting agency referred to in s. 486.031(3)(a). In

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101 | determining the standing and reputability of any such school and
102 | whether the school and courses meet such standards, the board
103 | may investigate and personally inspect the school and courses
104 | ~~make personal inspection of the same.~~

105 | Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.