

By Senator DiCeglie

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to physical therapy treatment plans; amending s. 486.021, F.S.; exempting specified services from the requirement that a physical therapist have a practitioner of record review and sign a plan of treatment; providing an effective date.

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

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

486.021 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires, the term:

(11) "Practice of physical therapy" means the performance of physical therapy assessments and the treatment of any disability, injury, disease, or other health condition of human beings, or the prevention of such disability, injury, disease, or other health condition, and the rehabilitation of such disability, injury, disease, or other health condition by alleviating impairments, functional movement limitations, and disabilities by designing, implementing, and modifying treatment interventions through therapeutic exercise; functional movement training in self-management and in-home, community, or work integration or reintegration; manual therapy; massage; airway clearance techniques; maintaining and restoring the integumentary system and wound care; physical agent or modality; mechanical or electrotherapeutic modality; patient-related instruction; the use of apparatus and equipment in the application of such treatment, prevention, or rehabilitation;

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30 the performance of tests of neuromuscular functions as an aid to
31 the diagnosis or treatment of any human condition; or the
32 performance of electromyography as an aid to the diagnosis of
33 any human condition only upon compliance with the criteria set
34 forth by the Board of Medicine.

35 (a) A physical therapist may implement a plan of treatment
36 developed by the physical therapist for a patient or provided
37 for a patient by a practitioner of record or by an advanced
38 practice registered nurse licensed under s. 464.012. The
39 physical therapist shall refer the patient to or consult with a
40 practitioner of record if the patient's condition is found to be
41 outside the scope of physical therapy. If physical therapy
42 treatment for a patient is required beyond 30 days for a
43 condition not previously assessed by a practitioner of record,
44 the physical therapist shall have a practitioner of record
45 review and sign the plan. The requirement that a physical
46 therapist have a practitioner of record review and sign a plan
47 of treatment does not apply:

48 1. When a patient has been physically examined by a
49 physician licensed in another state, the patient has been
50 diagnosed by the physician as having a condition for which
51 physical therapy is required, and the physical therapist is
52 treating the condition; or

53 2. To services provided for purposes of health promotion,
54 injury prevention, wellness, or fitness.

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56 For purposes of this paragraph, a health care practitioner
57 licensed under chapter 458, chapter 459, chapter 460, chapter
58 461, or chapter 466 and engaged in active practice is eligible

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59 to serve as a practitioner of record.

60 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.