

HOUSE BILL No. 1151

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 25-27-1.

Synopsis: Physical therapy services without a referral. Allows a physical therapist to evaluate and treat a patient without a referral for not more than 30 days. Requires a physical therapist to obtain a referral from the patient's provider if further treatment by the physical therapist is needed.

Effective: July 1, 2011.

Frizzell

January 6, 2011, read first time and referred to Committee on Public Health.

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First Regular Session 117th General Assembly (2011)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2010 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

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HOUSE BILL No. 1151



A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning professions and occupations.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 25-27-1-2 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
2 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2011]: Sec. 2. (a) Except as
3 otherwise provided in this chapter, it is unlawful for a person to:

- 4 (1) practice physical therapy; ~~or~~
- 5 (2) profess to be a physical therapist, physiotherapist, or physical
6 therapy technician or to use the initials "P.T.", "P.T.T.", or
7 "R.P.T.", or any other letters, words, abbreviations, or insignia
8 indicating that the person is a physical therapist; or ~~or~~
- 9 (3) practice or ~~or~~ assume the duties incident to physical therapy;
10 without first obtaining from the board a license authorizing the person
11 to practice physical therapy in this state.

12 (b) **Except as provided in section 2.5 of this chapter**, it is
13 unlawful for a person to practice physical therapy other than upon the
14 order or referral of a physician, podiatrist, psychologist, chiropractor,
15 or dentist holding an unlimited license to practice medicine, podiatric
16 medicine, psychology, chiropractic, or dentistry, respectively. It is
17 unlawful for a physical therapist to use the services of a physical



1 therapist's assistant except as provided under this chapter. For the
2 purposes of this subsection, the function of:

- 3 (1) teaching;
- 4 (2) doing research;
- 5 (3) providing advisory services; or
- 6 (4) conducting seminars on physical therapy;

7 is not considered to be a practice of physical therapy.

8 (c) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, it is unlawful for
9 a person to act as a physical therapist's assistant or to use initials,
10 letters, words, abbreviations, or insignia indicating that the person is a
11 physical therapist's assistant without first obtaining from the board a
12 certificate authorizing the person to act as a physical therapist's
13 assistant. It is unlawful for the person to act as a physical therapist's
14 assistant other than under the direct supervision of a licensed physical
15 therapist who is in responsible charge of a patient or under the direct
16 supervision of a physician. However, nothing in this chapter prohibits
17 a person licensed or registered in this state under another law from
18 engaging in the practice for which the person is licensed or registered.
19 These exempted persons include persons engaged in the practice of
20 osteopathy, chiropractic, or podiatric medicine.

21 (d) **Except as provided in section 2.5 of this chapter**, this chapter
22 does not authorize a person who is licensed as a physical therapist or
23 certified as a physical therapist's assistant to:

- 24 (1) evaluate any physical disability or mental disorder except
25 upon the order or referral of a physician, podiatrist, psychologist,
26 chiropractor, or dentist;
- 27 (2) practice medicine, surgery (as described in
28 IC 25-22.5-1-1.1(a)(1)(C)), dentistry, optometry, osteopathy,
29 psychology, chiropractic, or podiatric medicine; or
- 30 (3) prescribe a drug or other remedial substance used in medicine.

31 SECTION 2. IC 25-27-1-2.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
32 AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
33 1, 2011]: **Sec. 2.5. A physical therapist may evaluate and treat an
34 individual for not more than thirty (30) calendar days without a
35 referral from a provider described in section 2(b) of this chapter.
36 However, if the individual needs additional treatment from the
37 physical therapist after thirty (30) calendar days, the physical
38 therapist shall obtain a referral from the individual's provider, as
39 described in section 2(b) of this chapter.**

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