

2020 -- H 7234

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

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A N A C T

RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- PHYSICAL THERAPISTS

Introduced By: Representatives Bennett, McNamara, Speakman, Vella-Wilkinson, and  
Kislak

Date Introduced: January 22, 2020

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 5-40-1 of the General Laws in Chapter 5-40 entitled "Physical  
2 Therapists" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **5-40-1. Definitions.**

4 As used in this chapter:

5 (1) "Board" means the board of physical therapy established by § 5-40-2.

6 (2) "Department" means the department of health.

7 (3) "Examination" means an examination approved by the department in consultation  
8 with the board.

9 (4) "License" means a license issued by the department to practice physical therapy.

10 (5) "Physical therapist" means an individual who is licensed by the department to practice  
11 physical therapy.

12 (6) "Physical therapist assistant" means an individual who is licensed by the department  
13 to assist in the practice of physical therapy under the supervision of a physical therapist.

14 (7) "Physical therapy" means the care and services provided by or under the direction and  
15 supervision of a physical therapist who is licensed pursuant to this chapter.

16 (8) "Practice of physical therapy" means:

17 (i)(A) Examination, evaluation, treatment, and instruction of patients/clients to detect,  
18 assess, prevent, correct, alleviate, and limit physical disability, physical dysfunction, and pain  
19 from injury, disease, and any other bodily conditions;

1 (B) Administration, interpretation, and evaluation of tests and measurements of bodily  
2 functions and structures;

3 (C) The planning, administration, evaluation, and modification of treatment and  
4 instruction, including the use of physical measures, activities, and devices, for preventive and  
5 therapeutic purposes; ~~and~~

6 (D) The provision of consultative, educational, and other advisory services for the  
7 purpose of reducing the incidence and severity of physical disability, physical dysfunction, and  
8 pain; and

9 (E) Ordering diagnostic imaging and studies that are performed and interpreted by other  
10 licensed health care professionals.

11 (ii) The practice of physical therapy does not include the practice of medicine as defined  
12 in chapter 37 of this title.

13 (9) "Supervision" means that a licensed physical therapist is at all times responsible for  
14 supportive personnel and students.

15 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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- 1           This act would include in the practice of physical therapy ordering diagnostic images and
- 2 studies provided they are performed and interpreted by other licensed health care professionals.
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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