

# SENATE BILL NO. 668

November 09, 2023, Introduced by Senator HERTEL and referred to the Committee on Health Policy.

A bill to amend 1978 PA 368, entitled "Public health code," by amending sections 17801, 17820, and 17824 (MCL 333.17801, 333.17820, and 333.17824), section 17801 as amended by 2009 PA 55, section 17820 as amended by 2016 PA 499, and section 17824 as amended by 2014 PA 260; and to repeal acts and parts of acts.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

- 1** Sec. 17801. (1) As used in this part:
- 2** (a) "Physical therapist" means an individual licensed under

1 this article to engage in the practice of physical therapy.

2 (b) "Physical therapist assistant" means an individual with a  
3 health profession subfield license under this part who assists a  
4 physical therapist in physical therapy intervention.

5 (c) "Practice as physical therapist assistant" means the  
6 practice of physical therapy performed **by a physical therapist**  
7 **assistant** under the supervision of a physical therapist. ~~licensed~~  
8 ~~under this part.~~

9 (d) "Practice of physical therapy" means the evaluation of,  
10 education of, consultation with, or treatment of an individual by  
11 the employment of effective properties of physical measures and the  
12 use of therapeutic exercises and rehabilitative procedures, with or  
13 without assistive devices, for the purpose of preventing,  
14 correcting, or alleviating a physical or mental disability.  
15 Physical therapy includes **the identification and management of**  
16 **physical therapy-related health conditions, impairments, activity**  
17 **limitations, and participation restrictions;** treatment planning; ~~∟~~  
18 **the** performance of tests and measurements; ~~∟the~~ interpretation of  
19 referrals; ~~∟the~~ initiation of referrals; ~~∟~~instruction; ~~∟~~  
20 consultative services; ~~∟~~and **the** supervision of personnel. Physical  
21 measures include, **but are not limited to,** massage, mobilization,  
22 heat, cold, air, light, water, electricity, and sound. Practice of  
23 physical therapy does not include ~~the identification of underlying~~  
24 ~~medical problems or etiologies, establishment of medical diagnoses,~~  
25 ~~or the prescribing of treatment.~~**the diagnosis of a health condition**  
26 **if the diagnosis falls outside the scope of practice of physical**  
27 **therapy.**

28 (2) In addition to the definitions in this part, article 1  
29 contains general definitions and principles of construction

1 applicable to all articles in this code and part 161 contains  
2 definitions applicable to this part.

3       Sec. 17820. (1) An individual shall not engage in the practice  
4 of physical therapy or practice as a physical therapist assistant  
5 unless licensed or otherwise authorized under this part. ~~Except as~~  
6 ~~otherwise provided in this subsection, a physical therapist or~~  
7 ~~physical therapist assistant shall engage in the treatment of a~~  
8 ~~patient if that treatment is prescribed by a health care~~  
9 ~~professional who is an advanced practice registered nurse as that~~  
10 ~~term is defined in section 17201, or who holds a license issued~~  
11 ~~under part 166, 170, 175, or 180, or an equivalent license issued~~  
12 ~~by another state. A physical therapist or a physical therapist~~  
13 ~~assistant may engage in the treatment of a patient without the~~  
14 ~~prescription of a health care professional who is an advanced~~  
15 ~~practice registered nurse as that term is defined in section 17201,~~  
16 ~~or who holds a license issued under part 166, 170, 175, or 180, or~~  
17 ~~an equivalent license issued by another state, under either of the~~  
18 ~~following circumstances:~~

19       ~~(a) For 21 days or 10 treatments, whichever first occurs.~~  
20 ~~However, a physical therapist shall determine that the patient's~~  
21 ~~condition requires physical therapy before delegating physical~~  
22 ~~therapy interventions to a physical therapist assistant.~~

23       ~~(b) The patient is seeking physical therapy services for the~~  
24 ~~purpose of preventing injury or promoting fitness.~~

25       (2) The following words, titles, or letters or a combination  
26 of words, titles, or letters, with or without qualifying words or  
27 phrases, are restricted in use only to those persons authorized  
28 under this part to use the terms and in a way prescribed in this  
29 part: "physical therapy", "physical therapist", "doctor of

1 physiotherapy", "doctor of physical therapy", "physiotherapist",  
 2 "physiotherapy", "registered physical therapist", "licensed  
 3 physical therapist", "physical therapy technician", "physical  
 4 therapist assistant", "physical therapy assistant",  
 5 "physiotherapist assistant", "physiotherapy assistant", "p.t.  
 6 assistant", "p.t.", "r.p.t.", "l.p.t.", "c.p.t.", "d.p.t.",  
 7 "m.p.t.", "p.t.a.", "registered p.t.a.", "licensed p.t.a.",  
 8 "certified p.t.a.", "c.p.t.a.", "l.p.t.a.", "r.p.t.a.", and  
 9 "p.t.t.".

10 Sec. 17824. (1) ~~A~~**If a physical therapist who** is treating a  
 11 patient ~~upon~~**on the prescription of receipt of a referral from a**  
 12 health care professional, ~~as described in section 17820~~**the**  
 13 **physical therapist** shall do all of the following, as applicable:

14 (a) Refer the patient back to the health care professional who  
 15 ~~issued the prescription~~**made the referral** for treatment if the  
 16 physical therapist has reasonable cause to believe that symptoms or  
 17 conditions are present that require services beyond the scope of  
 18 practice of physical therapy.

19 (b) Consult with the health care professional who ~~issued the~~  
 20 ~~prescription~~**made the referral** for treatment if the patient does  
 21 not show reasonable response to treatment in a time period  
 22 consistent with the standards of practice as determined by the  
 23 board.

24 (2) ~~A~~**If a physical therapist who** is treating a patient  
 25 without a ~~prescription~~**referral** from a health care professional,  
 26 ~~under the conditions authorized in section 17820~~**the physical**  
 27 **therapist** shall do all of the following, as applicable:

28 (a) Refer the patient to an appropriate health care  
 29 professional for treatment if the physical therapist has reasonable

1 cause to believe that symptoms or conditions are present that  
2 require services beyond the scope of practice of physical therapy.

3 (b) Consult with an appropriate health care professional if  
4 the patient does not show reasonable response to treatment in a  
5 time period consistent with the standards of practice as determined  
6 by the board.

7 Enacting section 1. Section 17819 of the public health code,  
8 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.17819, is repealed.