

An Act

ENROLLED SENATE
BILL NO. 808

By: Reinhardt of the Senate

and

Harris of the House

An Act relating to the practice of physical therapy; amending 59 O.S. 2021, Section 887.17, which relates to referrals; clarifying certain exemption from referral; updating statutory language; and providing an effective date.

SUBJECT: Physical therapy

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2021, Section 887.17, is amended to read as follows:

Section 887.17. A. 1. Except for workers' compensation claims, any person licensed under the Physical Therapy Practice Act as a physical therapist ~~shall be able to~~ including, but not limited to, a licensed physical therapist operating under a direct-to-employer contract, may evaluate and treat human ailments by physical therapy on a patient without a referral from a licensed health care practitioner for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days. Treatment may be provided by a physical therapist assistant under the supervision of a physical therapist. Any treatment provided beyond the thirty-day period shall be only under the referral of a person licensed as a physician or surgeon with unlimited license, or the physician assistant of the person so licensed, and ~~Doctors of Dentistry, Chiropractic and Podiatry~~ doctors of dentistry, chiropractic, and podiatry and an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, with those referrals being limited to their respective areas of training and practice.

2. A physical therapist may provide services within the scope of physical therapy practice without a physician referral to children who receive physical therapy services pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004, as may be amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as may be amended. Provided further, a plan of care developed by a person authorized to provide services within the scope of the Physical Therapy Practice Act shall be deemed to be a prescription for purposes of providing services pursuant to the provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004, as may be amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as may be amended.

3. Nothing in the Physical Therapy Practice Act shall prevent a physical therapist from performing screening and educational procedures within the scope of physical therapy practice without a physician referral.

4. Nothing in the Physical Therapy Practice Act shall prevent a physical therapist from performing services that are provided for the purpose of fitness, wellness, or prevention that is not related to the treatment of an injury or ailment.

5. Nothing in the Physical Therapy Practice Act shall be construed as authorization for a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant to practice any branch of the healing art.

6. Any person violating the provisions of the Physical Therapy Practice Act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor as per Section 887.16 of this title.

B. 1. The provisions of the Physical Therapy Practice Act are not intended to limit the activities of persons legitimately engaged in the nontherapeutic administration of baths, massage, and normal exercise.

2. The Physical Therapy Practice Act shall not prohibit students who are enrolled in schools of physical therapy approved by the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision from performing such work as is incidental to their course of study; nor shall it prevent any student in any recognized school of the healing art in carrying out prescribed courses of study[†], provided such school is a

recognized institution by the ~~statutes of~~ Oklahoma Statutes, and its practitioners are duly licensed as prescribed by law.

3. Nothing in the Physical Therapy Practice Act shall apply to any person employed by an agency, bureau, or division of the federal government while in the discharge of official duties; however, if such individual engages in the practice of physical therapy outside the line of official duty, the individual must be licensed as herein provided.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

Passed the Senate the 11th day of March, 2025.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 21st day of April, 2025.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____