

House Bill 1514

By: Representatives Mainor of the 56th and Bennett of the 94th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 33 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 physical therapists, so as to revise the definition of "physical therapy" to include ordering
3 diagnostic imaging and using ultrasound; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting
4 laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Chapter 33 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to physical
8 therapists, is amended by revising Code Section 43-33-3, relating to definitions regarding
9 physical therapists, as follows:

10 "43-33-3.

11 As used in this article, the term:

12 (1) 'Board' means the State Board of Physical Therapy.

13 (2) 'Diagnostic imaging' means magnetic resonance imaging, computed tomography
14 (CT) scanning, positron emission tomography (PET) scanning, positron emission
15 tomography/computed tomography, and other advanced imaging services as defined by

16 the department by rule, but such term shall not include X-rays, fluoroscopy, or ultrasound
17 services.

18 ~~(2)~~(3) 'License' means a valid and current certificate of registration issued by the board
19 which shall give the person to whom it is issued authority to engage in the practice
20 prescribed thereon.

21 ~~(3)~~(4) 'Licensee' means any person holding a license under this article or holding a valid
22 Physical Therapy Licensure Compact privilege pursuant to Article 2 of this chapter.

23 ~~(4)~~(5) 'Person' means a human being only, not a legal entity.

24 ~~(5)~~(6) 'Physical therapist' means a person licensed to practice physical therapy as defined
25 in this article and whose license is in good standing.

26 ~~(6)~~(7) 'Physical therapist assistant' or 'physical therapy assistant' means a person who is
27 licensed by the board to assist a physical therapist, whose activities are supervised and
28 directed by a physical therapist, and whose license is in good standing.

29 ~~(7)~~(8) 'Physical therapy' means the care and services provided by or under the direction
30 and supervision of a physical therapist who is licensed pursuant to this article. The term
31 'physiotherapist' shall be synonymous with 'physical therapy' pursuant to this article. The
32 practice of physical therapy means:

33 (A) Examining, evaluating, and testing patients and clients with mechanical,
34 physiological, and developmental impairments, activity limitations, participation
35 restrictions, and disabilities or other movement related conditions, to include ordering
36 diagnostic imaging and using ultrasound, in order to determine a physical therapy
37 diagnosis, prognosis, and plan of intervention and to assess the ongoing effects of
38 intervention;

39 (B) Alleviating impairments of body structure or function by designing, implementing,
40 and modifying interventions to improve activity limitations or participation restrictions
41 for the purpose of preventing or reducing the incidence and severity of physical
42 disability, bodily malfunction, and pain;

43 (C) Reducing the risk of injury, impairment, activity limitations, participation
44 restrictions, and disability, including the promotion and maintenance of health, fitness,
45 and wellness in populations of all ages;
46 (D) Planning, administering, evaluating, and modifying intervention and instruction,
47 including the use of physical measures, activities, and devices, including but not limited
48 to dry needling for preventative and therapeutic purposes; and
49 (E) Engaging in administration, consultation, education, teaching, research, telehealth,
50 and the provision of instructional, consultative, educational, and other advisory
51 services.

52 ~~(8)~~⁽⁹⁾ 'Physical therapy aide' means a person who only performs designated and
53 supervised physical therapy tasks. The physical therapy aide must receive direct
54 supervision and must be directed on the premises at all times by a licensee. Physical
55 therapy aides are not licensed under this article.

56 ~~(9)~~⁽¹⁰⁾ 'Trainee' means an individual who is approved for a traineeship.

57 ~~(10)~~⁽¹¹⁾ 'Traineeship' means a period of activity during which a trainee works under the
58 direct supervision of a licensed physical therapist who has practiced for not less than one
59 year prior to assuming the supervisory role.

60 ~~(11)~~⁽¹²⁾ 'Training permit' means a valid and current certificate of registration issued by
61 the board which gives the person to whom it is issued authority to engage in practice
62 through a traineeship prescribed thereon."

63 SECTION 2.

64 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.