

ACT 396

2016 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 291

BY SENATORS MILLS, BARROW, BOUDREAUX, BROWN, COLOMB, DONAHUE,
GATTI, LAFLEUR, LONG, MILKOVICH, MORRELL, PEACOCK,
PETERSON AND TARVER



ORIGINATED

IN THE

SENATE

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BY SECRETARY OF STATE

JUN 07 2016

PUBLICATIONS DIVISION

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE	
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A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to the Secretary of the Senate.

SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 291

BY SENATORS MILLS, BARROW, BOUDREAUX, BROWN, COLOMB, DONAHUE, GATTI, LAFLEUR, LONG, MILKOVICH, MORRELL, PEACOCK, PETERSON AND TARVER

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 37:2418(B) and the introductory paragraph of 2418(C) and 2420(B) and (C), relative to the practice of physical therapy; to authorize implementation of physical therapy services in certain circumstances; to provide for disciplinary action; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 37:2418(B) and the introductory paragraph of 2418(C) and 2420(B) and (C) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§2418. Authority to practice as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant

* * *

B.(1) Without prescription or referral, a physical therapist may perform an initial evaluation or consultation of a screening nature to determine the need for physical therapy and may perform physical therapy or other services provided in Subsection C of this Section. ~~However, implementation of physical therapy treatment shall otherwise be based on the prescription or referral of a person licensed to practice medicine, surgery, dentistry, podiatry, or chiropractic.~~

(2)(a) For the treatment of a condition within the scope of physical therapy, other than under the circumstances provided for in Subsection C of this Section, a physical therapist may implement physical therapy treatment with or without a prescription or referral of a person licensed to practice medicine, surgery, dentistry, podiatry, or chiropractic if the physical therapist meets one of the following criteria:

(i) The physical therapist has a doctorate degree in physical therapy from an accredited institution.

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(ii) The physical therapist has five years of licensed clinical practice experience.

(b) If, after thirty calendar days of implementing physical therapy treatment pursuant to this Paragraph, the patient has not made measurable or functional improvement, the physical therapist shall refer the patient to an appropriate healthcare provider. The board shall take appropriate disciplinary action against any physical therapist who fails to refer a patient pursuant to this Paragraph.

(3) No physical therapist shall render a medical diagnosis of a disease.

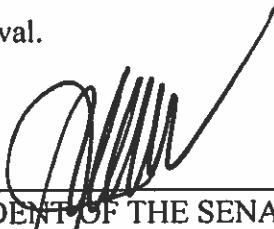
(4)(a) The provisions of this Section shall not be construed to have any effect on the provisions of R.S. 23:1121 or R.S. 23:1203.1.

(b) The provisions of this Section shall not be construed to have any effect on the monetary limit provided for in R.S. 23:1142.

C. ~~Except as to an initial evaluation or consultation, as provided in Subsection B of this Section, physical~~ **Physical** therapy services may be performed without a prescription or by referral ~~only~~ **only** under any of the following circumstances:

* * *

Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.



PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE



SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: WCB
6 June 2016