

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current and previously issued FIRs are available on the NM Legislative Website (www.nmlegis.gov) and may also be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Herrell **ORIGINAL DATE** 3/3/15
LAST UPDATED 3/13/15 **HB** 519/aHBEC

SHORT TITLE Physical Therapy Treatment & Board **SB** _____

ANALYST Elkins

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY15	FY16	FY17	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		NFI				

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates SB571

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Regulation and Licensing Department (RLD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of House Business and Employment Committee Amendment

House Business and Employment Committee Amendment to House Bill 519 requires physical therapist to refer a patient to the patient's licensed health care provider if:

- After thirty days of physical therapy intervention, the patient has not made measurable or functional improvement, however the thirty day limit does not apply to treatment for a chronic, neuromuscular, or developmental condition previously diagnosed by a licensed health care provider;
- The physical therapist believes the patient has symptoms or conditions requiring treatment beyond the scope of practice of physical therapists.

The amendment defines licensed health care provider as a physician, osteopathic physician, chiropractic physician, podiatrist, dentist, doctor of oriental medicine, nurse practitioner, nurse-midwife, nurse specialist, or physician assistant.

Also, the amendment strikes the section of the original bill that removed the termination clause for the Physical Therapy Board.

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill 519 allows physical therapists to accept patients without an existing medical diagnosis made by a licensed primary care provider. Also, the bill authorizes physical therapists to: provide initial evaluation, determination of physical therapy diagnosis, prognosis, and a plan of treatment intervention and documentation of each encounter; periodic reevaluation and documentation of each patient's care; and a documented discharge from care for each patient, including the patient's response to treatment intervention at the time of discharge.

This bill also repeals a the section of the Physical Therapy Act related to the termination of the Physical Therapy Board and delayed repeal of the Physical Therapy Act.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no identified fiscal implications.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

By removing the termination clause, the Physical Therapy Board will no longer be subject to the Sunset Act.

According to the American Physical Therapy Association, 18 states, including Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, and Utah have no restrictions on direct access to physical therapists.

For more information on direct access to physical therapy laws as of January 2015 visit:
(http://www.apta.org/uploadedFiles/APTAorg/Advocacy/State/Issues/Direct_Access/DirectAccessbyState.pdf)

CE/je/aml/je