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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Shendo **ORIGINAL DATE** 3/3/15 **LAST UPDATED** 3/15/15 **HB** _____
SHORT TITLE Physical Therapy Treatment & Board **SB** 571/aSPAC/aSCORC
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 HB 519

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Regulation and Licensing Department (RLD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Senate Corporations and Transportation Committee Amendment

Senate Corporations and Transportation Committee Amendment to Senate Bill 571 states physical therapist shall refer a patient to the patient’s licensed health care provider if:

1. after thirty days of initiating physical therapy intervention, the patient has not made measurable or functional improvement with respect to the primary complaints of the patient; provided that the thirty-day limit shall not apply to:
 - (a) treatment provided for a condition related to a chronic, neuromuscular or developmental condition for a patient previously diagnosed by a licensed health care provider as having a chronic, neuromuscular or developmental condition;
 - (b) services provided for health promotion, wellness, fitness or maintenance purposes; or
 - (b) services provided to a patient who is participating in a program pursuant to an individual education plan or individual family service plan under federal law; or
2. at any time, the physical therapist has reason to believe the patient has symptoms or conditions requiring treatment that is beyond the scope of practice of the physical therapist.

Senate Bill 571– Page 2

The amendment also 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.

Synopsis of Senate Public Affairs Committee Amendment

Senate Public Affairs Committee Amendment to Senate Bill 571 strikes the section of the original bill that removes the Physical Therapy Board termination and the delayed repeal of the Physical Therapy Act.

Also, the amendment states a physical therapist shall refer a patient to the patient’s licensed health care provider if:

1. after thirty days of initiating physical therapy intervention, the patient has not made measurable or functional improvement with respect to the primary complaints of the patient; provided that the thirty-day limit shall not apply to:
 - (a) treatment provided for a condition related to a chronic, neuromuscular or developmental condition for a patient previously diagnosed by a licensed health care provider as having a chronic, neuromuscular or developmental condition;
 - (b) services provided for health promotion, wellness, fitness or maintenance purposes; or
 - (c) services provided to a patient who is participating in a program pursuant to an individual education plan under federal law; or
2. at any time, the physical therapist has reason to believe the patient has symptoms or conditions requiring treatment that is beyond the scope of practice of the physical therapist.

Synopsis of Original Bill

Senate Bill 571 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, Utah, and others, 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)

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