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# SENATE BILL No. 197

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## DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

**Citations Affected:** IC 25-27-1.

**Synopsis:** Physical therapists. Allows a physical therapist to provide subsequent treatment to a patient who was previously referred to the physical therapist for the same condition if: (1) the referral was given not more than 12 months before the request for subsequent treatment; and (2) the physical therapist contacts the referring provider within three days. Allows a physical therapist to evaluate a patient without a referral, but requires the physical therapist to contact the patient's appropriate provider and obtain a referral before providing treatment. Specifies that a physical therapist may perform sharp debridement only on the order of a physician. Removes the authority that allows physical therapists to practice physical therapy upon the order or referral of a psychologist.

**Effective:** July 1, 2007.

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**Miller**

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January 8, 2007, read first time and referred to Committee on Health and Provider Services.

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First Regular Session 115th General Assembly (2007)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2006 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

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## SENATE BILL No. 197



A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning professions and occupations.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

1 SECTION 1. IC 25-27-1-1 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
2 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2007]: Sec. 1. For the purposes of  
3 this chapter:

4 (1) "Physical therapy" means the evaluation of, administration of,  
5 or instruction in physical rehabilitative and habilitative  
6 techniques, and procedures to evaluate, prevent, correct, treat,  
7 alleviate, and limit physical disability, pathokinesiologial  
8 function, bodily malfunction, pain from injury, disease, and any  
9 other physical disability, ~~or mental disorder~~, including:

10 (A) the use of physical measures, agents, and devices for  
11 preventive and therapeutic purposes;

12 (B) neurodevelopmental procedures;

13 (C) the performance, interpretation, and evaluation of physical  
14 therapy tests and measurements; and

15 (D) the provision of consultative, educational, and other  
16 advisory services for the purpose of preventing or reducing the  
17 incidence and severity of physical disability, bodily



- 1 malfunction, and pain.
- 2 (2) "Physical therapist" means a person who practices physical
- 3 therapy as defined in this chapter.
- 4 (3) "Physical therapist's assistant" means a person who assists in
- 5 the practice of physical therapy as defined in this chapter.
- 6 (4) "Board" refers to the medical licensing board.
- 7 (5) "Committee" refers to the Indiana physical therapy committee
- 8 established under section 4 of this chapter.
- 9 (6) "Person" means an individual.
- 10 (7) **"Sharp debridement" means the removal of foreign**
- 11 **material or dead tissue from or around a wound, without**
- 12 **anesthesia and with generally no bleeding, through the use of:**
- 13 (A) a sterile scalpel;
- 14 (B) scissors;
- 15 (C) forceps;
- 16 (D) tweezers; or
- 17 (E) other sharp medical instruments;
- 18 **in order to expose healthy tissue, prevent infection, and**
- 19 **promote healing.**
- 20 SECTION 2. IC 25-27-1-2 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
- 21 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2007]: Sec. 2. (a) Except as
- 22 otherwise provided in this chapter, it is unlawful for a person to:
- 23 (1) practice physical therapy; ~~or to~~
- 24 (2) profess to be a physical therapist, physiotherapist, or physical
- 25 therapy technician or to use the initials "P.T.", "P.T.T.", or
- 26 "R.P.T.", or any other letters, words, abbreviations, or insignia
- 27 indicating that the person is a physical therapist; or ~~to~~
- 28 (3) practice or ~~to~~ assume the duties incident to physical therapy;
- 29 without first obtaining from the board a license authorizing the person
- 30 to practice physical therapy in this state.
- 31 (b) **Except as provided in section 2.5 of this chapter,** it is
- 32 unlawful for a person to practice physical therapy other than upon the
- 33 order or referral of a physician, podiatrist, ~~psychologist,~~ chiropractor,
- 34 or dentist holding an unlimited license to practice medicine, podiatric
- 35 medicine, psychology, chiropractic, or dentistry, respectively. It is
- 36 unlawful for a physical therapist to use the services of a physical
- 37 therapist's assistant except as provided under this chapter. For the
- 38 purposes of this subsection, the function of:
- 39 (1) teaching;
- 40 (2) doing research;
- 41 (3) providing advisory services; or
- 42 (4) conducting seminars on physical therapy;

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1 is not considered to be a practice of physical therapy.

2 (c) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, it is unlawful for  
 3 a person to act as a physical therapist's assistant or to use initials,  
 4 letters, words, abbreviations, or insignia indicating that the person is a  
 5 physical therapist's assistant without first obtaining from the board a  
 6 certificate authorizing the person to act as a physical therapist's  
 7 assistant. It is unlawful for the person to act as a physical therapist's  
 8 assistant other than under the direct supervision of a licensed physical  
 9 therapist who is in responsible charge of a patient or under the direct  
 10 supervision of a physician. However, nothing in this chapter prohibits  
 11 a person licensed or registered in this state under another law from  
 12 engaging in the practice for which the person is licensed or registered.  
 13 These exempted persons include persons engaged in the practice of  
 14 osteopathy, chiropractic, or podiatric medicine.

15 (d) **Except as provided in section 2.5 of this chapter**, this chapter  
 16 does not authorize a person who is licensed as a physical therapist or  
 17 certified as a physical therapist's assistant to:

- 18 (1) evaluate any physical disability ~~or mental disorder~~ except  
 19 upon the order or referral of a physician, podiatrist, ~~psychologist~~,  
 20 chiropractor, or dentist;  
 21 (2) practice medicine, surgery (as described in  
 22 IC 25-22.5-1-1.1(a)(1)(C)), dentistry, optometry, osteopathy,  
 23 psychology, chiropractic, or podiatric medicine; or  
 24 (3) prescribe a drug or other remedial substance used in medicine.

25 SECTION 3. IC 25-27-1-2.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE  
 26 AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY  
 27 1, 2007]: **Sec. 2.5. (a) A physical therapist may evaluate an  
 28 individual without a referral from a provider described in section  
 29 2(b) of this chapter. However, the physical therapist:**

- 30 (1) **shall contact the individual's appropriate provider for a  
 31 referral not later than three (3) business days after the  
 32 physical therapist evaluates the individual; and**  
 33 (2) **shall obtain a referral from the individual's appropriate  
 34 provider before providing treatment to the individual.**

35 (b) **Notwithstanding subsection (a) and except as provided in  
 36 section 3.5 of this chapter, a physical therapist may provide  
 37 subsequent treatment of a condition to an individual who was  
 38 previously referred to the physical therapist for the same condition  
 39 if the referral that authorized the previous treatment under section  
 40 2(b) of this chapter was given not more than twelve (12) months  
 41 before the date the individual requests subsequent treatment from  
 42 the physical therapist. However, the physical therapist shall consult**

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1 with the individual's original referring provider not later than  
2 three (3) days after the physical therapist provides subsequent  
3 treatment to the individual under this subsection.  
4 SECTION 4. IC 25-27-1-3.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE  
5 AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY  
6 1, 2007]: **Sec. 3.5. A physical therapist may not perform sharp  
7 debridement unless the physical therapist performing the sharp  
8 debridement is acting on the order of a physician licensed under:**  
9 (1) IC 25-22.5; or  
10 (2) IC 25-29.

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