



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

Amy J. Rinehart

H.B. 169

131st General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Brown and Reineke, Stinziano, Blessing, Hood, Maag, Lepore-Hagan, Retherford

BILL SUMMARY

- Includes in the practice of physical therapy the evaluation of a person to determine (1) a diagnosis to treat physical impairments, functional limitations, and physical disabilities, (2) a prognosis, and (3) a plan of therapeutic intervention.
- Eliminates a provision specifying that the practice of physical therapy does not include the medical diagnosis of a patient's disability.
- Permits a physical therapist to order certain tests, but requires that the tests be performed and interpreted by other licensed health care professionals.
- Eliminates a requirement that specified activities, including the administration of prescribed topical drugs and physiotherapy, may be performed only by a physical therapist who is adequately trained.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Physical therapy scope of practice

The bill modifies the activities that may be performed by a physical therapist as described in the physical therapist licensing law.¹ Currently, the practice of physical therapy is the evaluation and treatment of a person by physical measures and the use of therapeutic exercises and rehabilitative procedures, with or without assistive devices, for the purpose of preventing, correcting, or alleviating any disability.

¹ R.C. 4755.40 to 4755.56.

The bill revises this by providing that the practice of physical therapy's purpose is to prevent, correct, or alleviate physical impairments, functional limitations, and physical disabilities (rather than any disability).²

Physical measures

The bill expands the current definition of "physical measures" to include other manual therapy techniques, in addition to massage, heat, cold, air, light, water, electricity (except for, as under continuing law, the use of Roentgen rays or radium for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes), sound, and the performance of tests of neuromuscular function as an aid to the provision of (rather than such) treatment as under continuing law.³

Patient evaluation

The bill removes the current law restriction regarding the medical diagnosis of a patient's disability.⁴

The bill includes in the practice of physical therapy the evaluation of a person to determine all of the following:

- (1) A diagnosis to treat a person's physical impairments, functional limitations, and physical disabilities;
- (2) A prognosis;
- (3) A plan of therapeutic intervention.⁵

Ordering tests

The bill allows a physical therapist to order tests, including diagnostic imaging and studies that are performed and interpreted by other licensed health care professionals.⁶

² R.C. 4755.40(A)(1).

³ R.C. 4755.40(A)(2).

⁴ R.C. 4755.40(A)(3).

⁵ R.C. 4755.40(A)(1).

⁶ R.C. 4755.40(A)(1).

"Adequately trained" physical therapist

The bill eliminates current law's requirement that the following activities may be performed only by a physical therapist who is adequately trained:

- (1) The administration of topical drugs that have been prescribed by a licensed health professional authorized to prescribe drugs;
- (2) The establishment and modification of physical therapy programs, treatment planning, patient education and instruction, and consultative services;
- (3) Physiotherapy.⁷

The bill revises one set of activities that may be performed under current law only by a physical therapist who is an adequately trained person. The bill provides that, if performed by an adequately trained person, the practice of physical therapy includes the design, fabrication, and revision of *various assistive devices* as added by the bill, *and the provision of* education and instruction in the use of those devices, including braces, splints, ambulatory or locomotion devices, wheelchairs, prosthetics, and orthotics.⁸

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	04-28-15

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⁷ R.C. 4755.40(A)(1).

⁸ R.C. 4755.40(A)(1).

