

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 159

BY REPRESENTATIVE STAGNI

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

PHYSICAL THERAPISTS: Provides relative to the supervision of physical therapist assistants

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 37:2418(F)(1) and (2), relative to the practice of physical therapist assistants; to provide for the supervision of physical therapist assistants and unlicensed supportive personnel; to repeal the requirement for documented conferences between a physical therapist and a physical therapist assistant; to provide for the treatment and reassessment of patients; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 37:2418(F)(1) and (2) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

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

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F.(1) A person licensed ~~under~~ pursuant to this Chapter as a physical therapist assistant shall perform treatments only under the direction and supervision of a licensed physical therapist. The duties assigned to the physical therapist assistant shall be commensurate with the physical therapist assistant's education, training, and experience.

(2) Notwithstanding any provision of law or rule to the contrary, the supervision requirements of a physical therapist assistant shall only be the following:

1 (a) It is the responsibility of each physical therapist to determine the number
2 of physical ~~therapist assistants~~ therapy supportive personnel he can supervise safely;
3 however, in no case shall the number of individuals supervised by a physical
4 therapist exceed ~~five~~ six individuals, ~~nor exceed the following limitations as to~~
5 ~~supervised personnel:~~

6 (i) ~~No more than four physical therapist assistants or technicians or any~~
7 ~~combination thereof.~~

8 (ii) ~~No more than two provisional licensees.~~

9 (iii) ~~No more than five students.~~

10 (b) A supervising physical therapist is responsible for and shall participate
11 in the patient's care.

12 (c) A supervising physical therapist shall be readily accessible by ~~beeper or~~
13 ~~telephone~~ telecommunication and available to the patient by the next scheduled
14 treatment session upon request of the patient or physical therapist assistant.

15 (d) A physical therapist assistant's duties shall not include interpretation or
16 implementation of referrals or prescriptions, performance of evaluations, or the
17 determination or major modification of treatment programs.

18 (e) ~~A supervising physical therapist shall hold documented conferences with~~
19 ~~the physical therapist assistant regarding the patient. The physical therapist is~~
20 ~~responsible for determining the frequency of the conferences consistent with~~
21 ~~accepted standards of practice; however, such conferences shall occur at least every~~
22 ~~sixth treatment day or every thirty days, whichever occurs first.~~

23 (f) A supervising physical therapist shall treat and reassess the patient at least
24 every ~~sixth~~ twelfth treatment day or every thirty days, ~~whichever occurs first~~ and for
25 his final treatment session, when feasible.

26 (g) ~~A supervising physical therapist shall treat the patient for his final~~
27 ~~treatment session when feasible and write a discharge summary.~~

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 159 Engrossed

2025 Regular Session

Stagni

Abstract: Makes changes to the practice of physical therapist assistants.

Present law outlines the supervisory responsibilities of a physical therapist as it relates to physical therapist assistants and unlicensed supportive personnel.

Present law provides for the number of physical therapist assistants and supervised personnel a physical therapist may safely supervise.

Proposed law allows a physical therapist to determine the number of physical therapy supportive personnel he can supervise. A physical therapist, however, is limited to six individuals.

Present law requires a physical therapist to be readily accessible and provides for methods of accessibility by a physical therapist including a beeper or telephone.

Proposed law modifies present law requiring a physical therapist to be accessible by telecommunication.

Present law requires that a supervising physical therapist conduct documented conferences with the physical therapist assistant regarding patients. It also gives discretion to the physical therapist to determine the frequency of these conferences but at a minimum, requires a conference at least every sixth treatment day or every 30 days, whichever occurs first.

Proposed law repeals present law requirements.

Present law requires a supervising physical therapist to treat and reassess a patient at least every sixth treatment day or every 30 days, whichever occurs first.

Proposed law changes present law requiring a supervising physical therapist to treat and reassess a patient at least every 12th treatment day or every 30 days.

Present law requires a supervising physical therapist to treat a patient for his final treatment session when feasible.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires a supervising physical therapist to write a discharge summary.

Proposed law repeals present law.

(Amends R.S. 37:2418(F)(1) and (2))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill:

1. Replace "therapist assistants" and "unlicensed supportive personnel" with the term "therapy supportive personnel".
2. Provide that it is the responsibility of each physical therapist to determine the number of therapy supportive personnel he can safely supervise but, in no case, shall the number of individuals supervised exceed six individuals.
3. Add that a supervising physical therapist shall treat and reassess a patient every 12th treatment day or every 30 days and for the patient's final treatment session.