

2016 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 291

BY SENATORS MILLS, BARROW, BOUDREAUX, BROWN, COLOMB, DONAHUE,
GATTI, LAFLEUR, LONG, MILKOVICH, MORRELL, PEACOCK,
PETERSON AND TARVER

HEALTH CARE. Provides for patient access to physical therapy services without a prescription or referral from a physician. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT
2 To amend and reenact R.S. 37:2418(B) and to repeal R.S. 37:2418(C) and (D), relative to
3 the practice of physical therapy; to authorize implementation of physical therapy
4 services in certain circumstances; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for
5 related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 37:2418(B) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 §2418. Authority to practice as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant

9 * * *

10 B. ~~Without prescription or referral, a physical therapist may perform an~~
11 ~~initial evaluation or consultation of a screening nature to determine the need for~~
12 ~~physical therapy and may perform physical therapy or other services provided in~~
13 ~~Subsection C of this Section. However, implementation of A physical therapist~~
14 ~~may implement physical therapy treatment shall otherwise be based on the with or~~
15 ~~without a prescription or referral of a person licensed to practice medicine, surgery,~~
16 ~~dentistry, podiatry, or chiropractic. The physical therapist shall provide notice to~~
17 ~~the health care provider of the patient's choice within fifteen days of~~

2. Requires a physical therapist to refer a patient to an appropriate health care provider if after 30 business days of implementing treatment the patient has not made measurable or functional improvement.