

Senate Study Bill 1046 - Introduced

SENATE FILE _____

BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
BILL BY CHAIRPERSON EDLER)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the referral of a patient for diagnostic
2 imaging by a physical therapist.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 148A.1, Code 2023, is amended to read as
2 follows:

3 **148A.1 Definitions — referral — authorization.**

4 1. ~~a.~~ As used in [this chapter](#), ~~“board”~~:

5 a. “Board” means the board of physical and occupational
6 therapy created under [chapter 147](#).

7 ~~b.~~ ~~As used in [this chapter](#), “physical therapy” is that~~
8 “Physical therapy” means the branch of science that deals
9 with the evaluation and treatment of human capabilities and
10 impairments. Physical therapy uses the effective properties
11 of physical agents including, but not limited to, mechanical
12 devices, heat, cold, air, light, water, electricity, and sound,
13 and therapeutic exercises, and rehabilitative procedures to
14 prevent, correct, minimize, or alleviate a physical impairment.

15 (1) Physical therapy includes the interpretation of
16 performances, tests, and measurements, the establishment and
17 modification of physical therapy programs, treatment planning,
18 consultative services, instructions to the patients, and the
19 administration and supervision attendant to physical therapy
20 facilities.

21 (2) Physical therapy permits the referral of a patient
22 by a physical therapist for diagnostic imaging, including
23 plain radiographs and magnetic resonance imaging, provided the
24 results of the imaging are evaluated by a health care provider
25 who is qualified and permitted to interpret the results.

26 2. Physical therapy evaluation and treatment may
27 be rendered by a physical therapist with or without a
28 referral from a physician, podiatric physician, dentist, or
29 chiropractor, except that a hospital may require that physical
30 therapy evaluation and treatment provided in the hospital shall
31 be done only upon prior review by and authorization of a member
32 of the hospital’s medical staff.

33 EXPLANATION

34 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
35 the explanation’s substance by the members of the general assembly.

S.F. _____

1 This bill amends the definition of "physical therapy" to
2 permit the referral of a patient by a physical therapist for
3 diagnostic imaging, including plain radiographs and magnetic
4 resonance imaging, provided the results of the imaging are
5 evaluated by a health care provider who is qualified and
6 permitted to interpret the results.