

HB 986 -- PHYSICAL THERAPISTS

SPONSOR: Aldridge

This bill changes the laws regarding physical therapists so that physical therapists no longer need a prescription or referral from a doctor in order to evaluate and initiate treatment on a patient. However, a physical therapist is required to refer to an approved health care provider any patient whose condition is beyond the physical therapist's scope of practice, or any patient who does not demonstrate measurable or functional improvement after 10 visits or 21 business days, whichever occurs first. The physical therapist must also consult with an approved health care provider before continuing therapy if after 10 visits or 21 business days, whichever occurs first, the patient has demonstrated measurable or functional improvement from the physical therapy and the physical therapist believes that continuation of physical therapy is necessary. Continued physical therapy must be in accordance with any direction of the health care provider. The physical therapist must notify the health care provider of continuing physical therapy every 30 days.

This bill allows a complaint to be filed against a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant who uses a controlled substance, other than legal use in accordance with a prescription, or alcohol in: (1) any amount detectable by a toxicology or other test while the person is performing the work of a physical therapist or physical therapy assistant; or (2) to the extent that such use impairs a person's ability to perform the work of a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant.

This bill is similar to HB 2287 (2020).