

By: Stucky

H.B. No. 2553

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the authority of a physical therapist to treat a patient without a referral.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 453.301(a), Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A physical therapist may treat a patient for an injury or condition in a manner described by Section 453.005 without a referral ~~[if the physical therapist:~~

~~[(1) has been licensed to practice physical therapy for at least one year;~~

~~[(2) is covered by professional liability insurance in the minimum amount required by board rule; and~~

~~[(3) either:~~

~~[(A) possesses a doctoral degree in physical therapy from:~~

~~[(i) a program that is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education; or~~

~~[(ii) an institution that is accredited by an agency or association recognized by the United States secretary of education; or~~

~~[(B) has completed at least 30 hours of continuing competence activities in the area of differential diagnosis].~~

1 SECTION 2. The heading to Section 453.302, Occupations  
2 Code, is amended to read as follows:

3 Sec. 453.302. PROVISION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE [~~TREATING~~  
4 ~~PATIENT WITHOUT REFERRAL~~].

5 SECTION 3. Section 453.302(b), Occupations Code, is amended  
6 to read as follows:

7 (b) In an emergency circumstance, including a minor  
8 emergency, a physical therapist may provide emergency medical care  
9 to a person to the best of the therapist's ability [~~without a~~  
10 ~~referral from a referring practitioner~~].

11 SECTION 4. The following provisions of the Occupations Code  
12 are repealed:

- 13 (1) Section 453.001(9);
- 14 (2) Sections 453.301(a-1), (a-2), and (b); and
- 15 (3) Section 453.302(c).

16 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.