88R11201 MAW-D

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~~].

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

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

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

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

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  The following provisions of the Occupations Code are repealed:

(1)  Section 453.001(9);

(2)  Sections 453.301(a-1), (a-2), and (b); and

(3)  Section 453.302(c).

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