

Subject Modifications to the practice and provision of physical therapy

Authors Reyer and others

Analyst Annie Mach

Date March 10, 2026

Overview

This bill makes changes to state statutes governing how physical therapists are licensed, with particular focus on how physical therapists supervise student physical therapists and student physical therapist assistants.

Summary

Section	Description
1	Physical therapy. Amends § 148.65, subd. 1. Adds to the definition of “physical therapy” to provide that it includes prevention, wellness, fitness, health promotion, and education for all individuals.
2	Student physical therapist. Amends § 148.65, subd. 5. Strikes language requiring that a physical therapist have direct contact with a patient during at least every second treatment session provided by a student physical therapist.
3	Student physical therapist assistant. Amends § 148.65, subd. 6. Makes language changes with respect to supervision of a student physical therapist assistant. Provides that telecommunications does not meet the requirement for on-site supervision of student physical therapist assistants, except when the telecommunication is conducted within the facility.
4	Supervision. Amends § 148.706, subd. 1. Provides that a physical therapist may supervise no more than two physical therapist assistants at any time and provides that when supervising an assistant, the physical therapist does not need to be on site but easily accessible by telecommunications. Makes physical therapists who instruct student physical therapists and student physical therapist assistants responsible for the functions performed by the students. Requires physical therapists supervising student physical

Section	Description
	therapists and student physical therapist assistants to have direct contact with the students' patients at least every second treatment provided by a student.
5	Direction of duties. Amends § 148.706, subd. 2. Provides that a physical therapist is authorized to direct patient treatment procedures only to a physical therapist assistant who has sufficient preparation. Modifies language around the activities that a physical therapist may not direct to a physical therapist assistant or other personnel.
6	Collaboration with physical therapist assistants. Amends § 148.706, subd. 3. Provides that when a physical therapist directs components of a patient's treatment to a physical therapist assistant, the physical therapist must have a real-time collaborative treatment session that takes place in person or remotely with the physical therapist assistant and document the continued appropriateness of the plan of care for the patient at least every six treatments.
7	Disciplinary action. Amends § 148.75. Removes reasons for which the Board of Physical Therapy may impose disciplinary action on an applicant or licensee.
8	Prohibited conduct. Amends § 148.76. Subdivision 1, paragraph (a) adds terms to statutes that an individual may not use unless the individual is licensed as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant. Subdivision 1, paragraph (b) prohibits various entities from indicating or implying that the entity provides or supplies physical therapy services unless the services are provided by a licensed physical therapist or a physical therapist assistant. Subdivision 2 modifies prohibitions for licensed physical therapists to provide that no physical therapist may treat human ailments other than by physical therapy unless duly licensed or registered to do so under the laws of this state. Subdivision 3 provides the Board of Physical Therapy may subject an individual or business entity that violates this section to civil penalties of up to \$10,000 per violation and allows the board to seek an injunction against any conduct that violates this section.
9	Repealer. Repeals Minn. Stat. § 148.65, subd. 9, relating to the definition of "licensed health care professional or licensed health care provider"; and § 148.77, relating to violations.



**MN HOUSE
RESEARCH**

Minnesota House Research Department provides nonpartisan legislative, legal, and information services to the Minnesota House of Representatives. This document can be made available in alternative formats.

www.house.mn.gov/hrd | 651-296-6753 | Third Floor, Centennial Office Building | St. Paul, MN 55155