

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

REENGROSSED

*This Version Includes All Amendments
Adopted in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 24-0577.01 Kristen Forrestal x4217

HOUSE BILL 24-1327

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Bradley and Duran, Brown, Lieder, McCormick, Young, Bird, English

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Mullica,

House Committees

Health & Human Services
Finance
Appropriations

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE CONTINUATION OF THE REGULATION OF PHYSICAL**
102 **THERAPY PRACTICE, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH,**
103 **IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE**
104 **2023 SUNSET REPORT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF REGULATORY**
105 **AGENCIES.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov/>.)

Sunset Process - House Health and Human Services Committee. The bill continues the regulation of physical therapists and

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

HOUSE
3rd Reading Unamended
April 24, 2024

HOUSE
Amended 2nd Reading
April 23, 2024

physical therapy assistants until September 1, 2035. The bill also authorizes physical therapists to recommend and prescribe durable medical equipment to patients without a prescription from a physician.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-285-104, **amend**
3 (6)(a)(II) introductory portion, (6)(a)(II)(E), and (6)(a)(II)(F); and **add**
4 (6)(a)(II)(G) as follows:

5 **12-285-104. Definitions.** As used in this article 285, unless the
6 context otherwise requires:

7 (6) (a) (II) ~~For purposes of AS USED IN~~ this article 285, "physical
8 therapy" includes:

9 (E) The provision of consultative, educational, and other advisory
10 services for the purpose of reducing the incidence and severity of physical
11 disability, movement dysfunction, bodily malfunction, and pain; ~~and~~

12 (F) General wound care, including the assessment and
13 management of skin lesions, surgical incisions, open wounds, and areas
14 of potential skin breakdown in order to maintain or restore the
15 integumentary system; AND

16 (G) THE AUTHORIZATION TO DIRECTLY RECOMMEND AND
17 PRESCRIBE DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT TO PATIENTS WITHOUT
18 REQUESTING A PRESCRIPTION FROM A LICENSED PHYSICIAN.

19 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 12-285-132
20 as follows:

21 **12-285-132. Repeal of part - review of functions.** This part 1
22 and the licensing functions of the board as set forth in this part 1 are
23 repealed, effective ~~September 1, 2024~~ SEPTEMBER 1, 2035. Before the
24 repeal, the licensing functions of the board are scheduled for review in

1 accordance with section 24-34-104.

2 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 12-285-220
3 as follows:

4 **12-285-220. Repeal of part - review of functions.** This part 2 is
5 repealed, effective ~~September 1, 2024~~ SEPTEMBER 1, 2035. Before the
6 repeal, the functions of the board in regulating physical therapist
7 assistants under this part 2 are scheduled for review in accordance with
8 section 24-34-104.

9 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-34-104, **repeal**
10 (25)(a)(XVIII) and (25)(a)(XIX); and **add** (36) as follows:

11 **24-34-104. General assembly review of regulatory agencies**
12 **and functions for repeal, continuation, or reestablishment - legislative**
13 **declaration - repeal.** (25) (a) The following agencies, functions, or both,
14 are scheduled for repeal on September 1, 2024:

15 (XVIII) ~~The licensing of physical therapists by the physical~~
16 ~~therapy board in accordance with part 1 of article 285 of title 12;~~

17 (XIX) ~~The certification of physical therapist assistants by the~~
18 ~~physical therapy board in accordance with part 2 of article 285 of title 12;~~

19 (36) (a) THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES, FUNCTIONS, OR BOTH, ARE
20 SCHEDULED FOR REPEAL ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2035:

21 (I) THE LICENSING OF PHYSICAL THERAPISTS BY THE PHYSICAL
22 THERAPY BOARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF ARTICLE 285 OF TITLE
23 12;

24 (II) THE CERTIFICATION OF PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANTS BY
25 THE PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 2 OF ARTICLE
26 285 OF TITLE 12.

27 (b) THIS SUBSECTION (36) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1,

1 2037.

2 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-285-104, amend
3 (4), (6)(a)(II)(E), (6)(a)(II)(F), and (6)(b)(III); and **add** (6)(a)(II)(G) as
4 follows:

5 **12-285-104. Definitions.** As used in this article 285, unless the
6 context otherwise requires:

7 (4) "Physical therapist" means a person who is licensed to practice
8 physical therapy. The terms TERM "physiotherapist" and "physical therapy
9 technician" are IS synonymous with the term "physical therapist".

10 (6) (a) (II) For purposes of this article 285, "physical therapy"
11 includes:

12 (E) The provision of consultative, educational, and other advisory
13 services for the purpose of reducing the incidence and severity of physical
14 disability, movement dysfunction, bodily malfunction, and pain; and

15 (F) General wound care AND WOUND DEBRIDEMENT, including the
16 assessment and management of skin lesions, surgical incisions, open
17 wounds, and areas of potential skin breakdown in order to maintain or
18 restore the integumentary system. WOUND DEBRIDEMENT INCLUDES SHARP
19 DEBRIDEMENT AND NONSHARP DEBRIDEMENT, SUCH AS MECHANICAL,
20 AUTOLYTIC, ENZYMATIC, AND MAGGOT.

21 (G) ONGOING REVIEW, INTEGRATION, AND UNDERSTANDING OF A
22 PATIENT'S OR CLIENT'S PRESCRIPTION AND NONPRESCRIPTION MEDICATION
23 REGIMEN, WITH CONSIDERATION OF ITS IMPACT ON HEALTH, FUNCTION,
24 MOVEMENT, AND DISABILITY.

25 (b) For the purposes of subsection (6)(a)(II) of this section:

26 (III) "Tests and measurements" includes, but is not limited to, tests
27 of muscle strength, force, endurance, and tone; reflexes and automatic

1 reactions; movement skill and accuracy; joint motion, mobility, and
2 stability; sensation and perception; peripheral nerve integrity; locomotor
3 skill, stability, and endurance; activities of daily living; cardiac,
4 pulmonary, and vascular functions; fit, function, and comfort of
5 prosthetic, orthotic, and other assistive devices; posture and body
6 mechanics; limb length, circumference, and volume; thoracic excursion
7 and breathing patterns; vital signs; nature and locus of pain and
8 conditions under which pain varies; photosensitivity; and physical home
9 and work environments MEANS STANDARD METHODS AND TECHNIQUES
10 USED TO OBTAIN DATA ABOUT THE PATIENT OR CLIENT, INCLUDING
11 DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING AND ELECTRODIAGNOSTIC AND
12 ELECTROPHYSIOLOGICAL TESTS AND MEASURES.

13 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend 12-285-107**
14 as follows:

15 **12-285-107. Use of titles restricted.** (1) A person licensed as a
16 physical therapist may use the title "physical therapist" or the letters
17 "P.T." or any other generally accepted terms, letters, or figures that
18 indicate that the person is a physical therapist. No other person shall be
19 so designated or shall use the terms "physical therapist", "licensed
20 physical therapist", "physiotherapist", "DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY",
21 "DOCTOR OF PHYSIOTHERAPY", or "physical therapy technician", or the
22 letters "P.T.", or "L.P.T.", "P.T.A.", "D.P.T.", "R.P.T.", OR ANY LETTERS,
23 ABBREVIATIONS, OR INSIGNIA INDICATING OR IMPLYING THAT THE PERSON
24 IS A PHYSICAL THERAPIST UNLESS THE PERSON IS LICENSED PURSUANT TO
25 THIS ARTICLE 285.

26 (2) A PERSON ENROLLED AS A STUDENT PHYSICAL THERAPIST IN AN
27 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM ACCREDITED BY THE COMMISSION ON

1 ACCREDITATION IN PHYSICAL THERAPY EDUCATION OR A COMPARABLE
2 ORGANIZATION, AS DETERMINED BY THE BOARD, MAY USE THE TITLE
3 "STUDENT PHYSICAL THERAPIST". NO OTHER PERSON SHALL USE THE TERM
4 "STUDENT PHYSICAL THERAPIST" OR THE LETTERS "S.P.T." OR ANY
5 LETTERS, ABBREVIATIONS, OR INSIGNIA INDICATING OR IMPLYING THAT
6 THE PERSON IS A STUDENT PHYSICAL THERAPIST.

7 **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-285-113, **amend**
8 (1) introductory portion and (1)(b) as follows:

9 **12-285-113. Licensing of internationally-educated applicants.**

10 (1) Every ~~foreign-trained~~ applicant for licensing WHO IS EDUCATED BY A
11 PROGRAM THAT IS NOT ACCREDITED BY THE COMMISSION ON
12 ACCREDITATION IN PHYSICAL THERAPY EDUCATION OR A COMPARABLE
13 ORGANIZATION, AS DETERMINED BY THE BOARD, shall:

14 (b) Possess an active, valid license in good standing or other
15 authorization to practice physical therapy from an appropriate authority
16 in the country where the ~~foreign-trained~~ applicant is practicing or has
17 practiced;

18 **SECTION 8.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-285-116, **amend**
19 (3) as follows:

20 **12-285-116. Special practice authorities and requirements -**
21 **definition - rules. (3) Wound debridement.** A physical therapist is
22 authorized to perform wound debridement under a physician's order, ~~or~~
23 the order of a physician assistant authorized under section 12-240-107
24 (6), OR THE ORDER OF AN ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE
25 AUTHORIZED UNDER SECTION 12-255-111 when debridement is consistent
26 with the scope of physical therapy practice. The performance of wound
27 debridement does not violate the prohibition against performing surgery

1 pursuant to section 12-285-108 (1)(a).

2 **SECTION 9.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-285-203, **add** (3)
3 as follows:

4 **12-285-203. Limitations on authority.** (3) A PHYSICAL
5 THERAPIST ASSISTANT:

6 (a) SHALL NOT PERFORM SHARP WOUND DEBRIDEMENT;

7 (b) MAY PERFORM GENERAL WOUND CARE AND NONSHARP
8 DEBRIDEMENT, INCLUDING MECHANICAL, AUTOLYTIC, ENZYMATIC, AND
9 MAGGOT, UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A PHYSICAL THERAPIST WHEN
10 DEBRIDEMENT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE SCOPE OF PHYSICAL THERAPY
11 PRACTICE.

12 **SECTION 10.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-285-207, **amend**
13 (1) introductory portion and (1)(b) as follows:

14 **12-285-207. Certification of internationally-educated**
15 **applicants.** (1) Every ~~foreign-trained~~ applicant for certification WHO IS
16 EDUCATED BY A PROGRAM THAT IS NOT ACCREDITED BY THE COMMISSION
17 ON ACCREDITATION IN PHYSICAL THERAPY EDUCATION OR A
18 COMPARABLE ORGANIZATION, AS DETERMINED BY THE BOARD, shall:

19 (b) Possess an active, valid license, certification, or registration in
20 good standing or other authorization to practice as a physical therapist
21 assistant from an appropriate authority in the country where the
22 ~~foreign-trained~~ applicant is practicing or has practiced;

23 **SECTION 11. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
24 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
25 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
26 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
27 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this

1 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
2 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
3 November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
4 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.