

SENATE BILL NO. 590

BY SENATOR MCPHERSON

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 37:2418(F)(2) and to enact R.S. 37:2418(F)(4), relative to
3 physical therapist assistants; to provide for supervision requirements; and to provide
4 for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 37:2418(F)(2) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.
7 37:2418(F)(4) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §2418. Authority to practice as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant

9 * * *

10 F. * * *

11 (2) Notwithstanding any provision of law or rule to the contrary, the
12 supervision requirements of a physical therapist assistant shall only be the
13 following:

14 (a) It is the responsibility of each physical therapist to determine the
15 number of physical therapist assistants he can supervise safely; however, in no
16 case shall the number of individuals supervised by a physical therapist exceed
17 five individuals, nor exceed the following limitations as to supervised personnel:

18 (i) No more than four physical therapist assistants or technicians or any
19 combination thereof.

20 (ii) No more than two provisional licensees.

21 (iii) No more than five students.

22 (b) A supervising physical therapist is responsible for and shall
23 participate in the patient's care.

24 (c) A supervising physical therapist shall be readily accessible by beeper
25 or telephone and available to the patient by the next scheduled treatment
26 session upon request of the patient or physical therapist assistant.

27 (d) A physical therapist assistant's duties shall not include interpretation or

1 implementation of referrals or prescriptions, performance of evaluations, or the
2 determination or major modification of treatment programs.

3 (e) A supervising physical therapist shall hold documented conferences
4 with the physical therapist assistant regarding the patient. The physical
5 therapist is responsible for determining the frequency of the conferences
6 consistent with accepted standards of practice; however, such conferences shall
7 occur at least every sixth treatment day or every thirty days, whichever occurs
8 first.

9 (f) A supervising physical therapist shall treat and reassess the patient
10 at least every sixth treatment day or every thirty days, whichever occurs first.

11 (g) A supervising physical therapist shall treat the patient for his final
12 treatment session when feasible and write a discharge summary.

13 * * *

14 (4) Notwithstanding any rule or regulation to the contrary, for the
15 purposes of supervision of physical therapist assistants by a physical therapist,
16 a nursing home as defined by R.S. 40:2009.2(1) shall not be defined as a place
17 of residence or as a home health setting. Any rule or regulation to the contrary
18 shall be null and void. Supervision requirements for a physical therapist
19 assistant performing treatments in a nursing home shall be consistent regardless
20 of whether the patient is in a skilled or non-skilled nursing bed.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____