

**Sixty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota  
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 5, 2021**

SENATE BILL NO. 2122  
(Senators Bekkedahl, Bakke, Kreun)  
(Representatives Paur, Sanford)

AN ACT to create and enact a new section to chapter 43-26.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to permitting physical therapists to order musculoskeletal medical imaging; and to amend and reenact subsection 14 of section 43-26.1-01 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the scope of practice of physical therapists.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 14 of section 43-26.1-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

14. "Practice of physical therapy" means:
  - a. Examining, evaluating, and testing individuals with mechanical, physiological, and developmental impairments, functional limitations in movement and mobility, and disabilities or other health and movement-related conditions to determine a diagnosis for physical therapy, prognosis, and plan of therapeutic intervention, and to assess the ongoing effects of intervention. The term includes ordering musculoskeletal imaging consisting of plain film radiographs to be performed by a professional authorized by chapter 43-62 and interpreted by a licensed physician trained in radiology interpretation, and using these results to determine if a referral to another health care provider is necessary or indicates the necessary treatment is within the physical therapist's scope of practice.
  - b. Alleviating impairments, functional limitations in movement and mobility, and disabilities by designing, implementing and modifying therapeutic interventions that may include therapeutic exercise; neuromuscular education; functional training related to positioning, movement, and mobility in self-care and in-home, community, or work integration or reintegration; manual therapy; therapeutic massage; prescription, application and, as appropriate, fabrication of assistive, adaptive, orthotic, prosthetic, protective, and supportive devices and equipment related to positioning, movement, and mobility; airway clearance techniques; integumentary protection and repair techniques; debridement and wound care; physiotherapy; physical agents or modalities; mechanical and electrotherapeutic modalities; and patient-related instruction.
  - c. Engaging as a physical therapist in reducing the risk of injury, impairment, functional limitation and disability, including the promotion and maintenance of fitness, health, and wellness in populations of all ages.
  - d. Engaging as a physical therapist in administration, consultation, education, and research.

**SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 43-26.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

**Ordering imaging.**

A physical therapist may order musculoskeletal imaging consisting of plain film radiographs if the physical therapist holds a clinical doctorate degree in physical therapy or has completed a board-approved formal medical imaging training program.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

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Secretary of the Senate

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Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that the within bill originated in the Senate of the Sixty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2122.

Senate Vote:    Yeas 46            Nays 1            Absent 0

House Vote:    Yeas 90            Nays 2            Absent 2

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Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

Approved at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

Filed in this office this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021,

at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

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Secretary of State