

1 patient access to physical therapy whereby access to physical therapy is limited to
2 evaluation, wellness, and a limited treatment patient population, including but not limited
3 to access to patients with a previous diagnosis or previous referral or prescription; and

4 WHEREAS, Louisiana enacted a less restrictive form of patient access to physical
5 therapist services in 2003, and there have not been adverse health or safety issues related to
6 increased access to physical therapy services since the law took effect; and

7 WHEREAS, the restrictions and provisions tied to the current patient access law are
8 a barrier to access, resulting in increased healthcare costs and preventing a majority of the
9 patient population from seeing their physical therapist unless they have a referral or a
10 prescription; and

11 WHEREAS, studies have shown that improved patient access to physical therapist
12 services promotes a free-market health care environment, reduces health care costs, and
13 improves patient outcomes thereby promoting the public health, safety, and welfare; and

14 WHEREAS, if following the physical therapy evaluation and diagnosis the physical
15 therapist determines that a patient requires treatment and care that is outside the physical
16 therapist's scope of practice, the physical therapist informs the patient and client and refers
17 him to an appropriate medical professional.

18 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
19 direct the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board to create the Physical Therapy Patient Access
20 Review Committee with the membership to include at least the individuals listed hereinafter.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall investigate the potential
22 benefits of removing the current restrictions tied to patient access to a physical therapist's
23 services by allowing direct patient access to a physical therapist's services without
24 restrictions and report its findings and make recommendations to the legislature.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall be staffed and meetings of
26 the committee hosted by the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall include the following
28 members:

- 29 (1) The commissioner of the Louisiana Department of Insurance or his designee.
30 (2) The president of the Louisiana Senate or his designee.

1 (3) The speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives or his designee.

2 (4) The secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals or his designee.

3 (5) The executive director of the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board or his designee.

4 (6) The executive director of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners or his
5 designee.

6 (7) The executive director of the Louisiana State Board of Chiropractic Examiners
7 or his designee.

8 (8) The president of the Louisiana Physical Therapy Association or his designee.

9 (9) The chief executive officer of the Louisiana State Medical Society or his
10 designee.

11 (10) The chief executive officer of the Louisiana Association of Health Plans or his
12 designee.

13 (11) The assistant chief of physical therapy services at Bayne-Jones Army
14 Community Hospital and captain of the United States Army or his designee.

15 (12) The dean of Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center School of Allied
16 Health Professionals, New Orleans, or his designee.

17 (13) The dean of Louisiana State University Health Shreveport School of Allied
18 Health Professions or his designee.

19 (14) The president of the Louisiana Orthopaedic Association or his designee.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the committee shall serve
21 without compensation except per diem or expense reimbursement to which they may be
22 individually entitled as members of the constituent organizations.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the executive director of the Louisiana Physical
24 Therapy Board or his designee shall serve as the chairperson of the committee.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chairperson of the committee shall call the
26 first meeting of the committee on or before September 1, 2015.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the total membership shall
28 constitute a quorum of the committee, and any official action by the committee shall require
29 an affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum present and voting.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee may conduct such meetings at

1 such times as it deems necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively
2 its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this Resolution.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall submit a report of its
4 findings and recommendations to the legislature no later than January 15, 2016.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the authority of the committee shall terminate
6 upon submission of the report to the legislature.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
8 commissioner of the Louisiana Department of Insurance, the secretary of the Department of
9 Health and Hospitals, the executive director of the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board or his
10 designee, the executive director of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners, the
11 director of the Louisiana State Board of Chiropractic Examiners, the president of the
12 Louisiana Physical Therapy Association, the chief executive officer of the Louisiana State
13 Medical Society, the chief executive officer of the Louisiana Association of Health Plans,
14 assistant chief of physical therapy services at Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital, the
15 chancellor of Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center School of Allied Health
16 Professionals, New Orleans, the chancellor of Louisiana State University Health Shreveport
17 School of Allied Health Professions, and the president of the Louisiana Orthopaedic
18 Association.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Christopher D. Adams.

DIGEST

SCR 19 Engrossed

2015 Regular Session

Mills

Directs the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board to create the Physical Therapy Patient Access
Review Committee.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Health and Welfare to
the original bill

1. Provides for the committee to study eliminating patient access to physical therapy services regarding referral to or prescription for physical therapy services.
2. Changes from ten to nine the number of states having the most restrictive and limited patient access to physical therapy.

3. Adds to the committee the president of the Louisiana Orthopaedic Association or his designee.