



Rep. Angelica Guerrero-Cuellar

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10400SB2153ham002

LRB104 09779 AAS 26506 a

1 AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 2153

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend Senate Bill 2153 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 5. The Illinois Physical Therapy Act is amended
5 by changing Section 1.3 as follows:

6 (225 ILCS 90/1.3)

7 (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2026)

8 Sec. 1.3. Telehealth services.

9 (a) Physical therapy through telehealth services may be
10 used to address access issues to care, enhance care delivery,
11 or increase the physical therapist's ability to assess and
12 direct the patient's performance in the patient's own
13 environment.

14 (b) Only a ~~A~~ physical therapist or physical therapist
15 assistant working under the general supervision of a physical
16 therapist may provide physical therapy through telehealth

1 services pursuant to the terms and use defined in the
2 Telehealth Act and the Illinois Insurance Code and subject to
3 the following conditions:

4 (1) Physical therapists may use telehealth to perform
5 an initial physical therapy evaluation if one of the
6 following criteria is met:

7 (i) the patient has a referral or diagnosis from a
8 health care professional;

9 (ii) the patient has an established relationship
10 with the physical therapist; or

11 (iii) if necessary, the physical therapist has the
12 capacity to perform or facilitate a referral for an
13 in-person, hands-on examination or re-examination by a
14 physical therapist at any time throughout the course
15 of the patient's care. ~~Initial physical therapy~~
16 ~~evaluations without a referral or established~~
17 ~~diagnosis may only be performed by a licensed physical~~
18 ~~therapist and cannot be performed via telehealth~~
19 ~~unless necessary to address a documented hardship,~~
20 ~~including, but not limited to, geographical, physical,~~
21 ~~or weather-related conditions.~~

22 (2) A physical therapist or a physical therapist
23 assistant may require the patient to undergo an in-person
24 visit instead of providing telehealth services. ~~The use of~~
25 ~~telehealth as a primary means of delivering physical~~
26 ~~therapy must be an exception and documentation must~~

1 ~~support the clinical justification.~~

2 (3) A patient receiving physical therapy via
3 telehealth must be able to request and receive in-person
4 care at any point during their treatment.

5 (4) A physical therapist providing telehealth must
6 have the capacity to provide or be able to facilitate a
7 referral to in-person care within the State of Illinois.

8 (5) A physical therapist or a physical therapist
9 assistant may engage in the practice of telehealth
10 services in this State to the extent of the physical
11 therapist's or the physical therapist assistant's scope of
12 practice as established in this Act and consistent with
13 the standards of care for in-person services. This Section
14 shall not be construed to authorize the delivery of
15 physical therapy services in a setting or in a manner not
16 otherwise authorized by law.

17 (6) A physical therapist or a physical therapist
18 assistant working under the general supervision of a
19 physical therapist treating a patient located in this
20 State through telehealth services must be licensed or
21 authorized to practice physical therapy in this State.

22 (c) The Department may, in consultation with the
23 Department of Human Services and the Department of Early
24 Childhood, exempt physical therapists and physical therapist
25 assistants providing physical therapy services as part of the
26 Illinois Early Intervention Program, an individualized

1 education program, or a federal Section 504 plan through a
2 school system from this Section by rule to address service
3 delays.

4 (d) Nothing in this Section shall be construed to allow
5 noncompliance with any requirements under the federal
6 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Early
7 Intervention Services System Act, the Department of Early
8 Childhood Act, or any other State or federal law.

9 (Source: P.A. 103-849, eff. 1-1-25.)

10 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
11 becoming law."