

**First Regular Session
Sixty-sixth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

ENGROSSED

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

LLS NO. 07-0020.01 Duane Gall

HOUSE BILL 07-1126

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

McGihon,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Johnson,

House Committees

Health and Human Services

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE AUTHORITY OF PHYSICAL THERAPISTS TO PERFORM**
102 **PHYSICAL THERAPY ON ANIMALS.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not necessarily reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted.)

Allows licensed physical therapists to treat animals when such treatment is consistent with the scope of physical therapy practice. Specifies that such practice shall not be deemed the practice of veterinary medicine. Requires the director of the division of registrations, in consultation with the physical therapy advisory committee and the board of veterinary medicine, to adopt rules governing the practice of physical therapy on animals.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

HOUSE
Amended 2nd Reading
February 9, 2007

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

2 **SECTION 1.** 12-41-103 (6) (a) (I), Colorado Revised Statutes, is
3 amended to read:

4 **12-41-103. Definitions.** As used in this article, unless the context
5 otherwise requires:

6 (6) (a) (I) "Physical therapy" means the examination, treatment,
7 or instruction of ~~human beings~~ PATIENTS AND CLIENTS to detect, assess,
8 prevent, correct, alleviate, or limit physical disability, movement
9 dysfunction, bodily malfunction, or pain from injury, disease, and other
10 bodily conditions.

11 **SECTION 2.** 12-41-113, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended
12 BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SUBSECTION to read:

13 **12-41-113. Special practice authorities and requirements.**

14 (4) **Physical therapy of animals.** (a) A PHYSICAL THERAPIST IS
15 AUTHORIZED TO PERFORM PHYSICAL THERAPY OF ANIMALS WHEN SUCH
16 PHYSICAL THERAPY OF ANIMALS IS CONSISTENT WITH THE SCOPE OF
17 PHYSICAL THERAPY PRACTICE. IN RECOGNITION OF THE SPECIAL
18 AUTHORITY GRANTED BY THIS SUBSECTION (4), THE PERFORMANCE OF
19 PHYSICAL THERAPY OF ANIMALS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBSECTION
20 (4) SHALL NOT CONSTITUTE THE PRACTICE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE, AS
21 DEFINED IN SECTION 12-64-103, NOR SHALL IT BE DEEMED A VIOLATION OF
22 SECTION 12-64-104.

23 (b) IN RECOGNITION OF THE EMERGING FIELD OF PHYSICAL
24 THERAPY OF ANIMALS, BEFORE COMMENCING PHYSICAL THERAPY OF AN
25 ANIMAL, A PHYSICAL THERAPIST SHALL OBTAIN VETERINARY MEDICAL
26 CLEARANCE OF THE ANIMAL BY A VETERINARIAN LICENSED UNDER

1 ARTICLE 64 OF THIS TITLE.

2 SECTION 3. 12-41-125 (2) (b), Colorado Revised Statutes, is
3 amended to read:

4 12-41-125. Powers and duties of director - reports -
5 publications. (2) In addition to any other powers and duties given the
6 director by this article, the director shall have the following powers and
7 duties:

8 (b) To adopt all reasonable and necessary rules and regulations for
9 the administration and enforcement of this article, including, but not
10 limited to, rules regarding:

11 (I) The supervision of unlicensed persons by physical therapists
12 taking into account the education and training of such unlicensed
13 individuals; AND

14 (II) PHYSICAL THERAPY OF ANIMALS, INCLUDING, WITHOUT
15 LIMITATION, EDUCATIONAL AND CLINICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
16 PERFORMANCE OF PHYSICAL THERAPY OF ANIMALS AND THE PROCEDURE
17 FOR HANDLING COMPLAINTS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF REGULATORY
18 AGENCIES REGARDING PHYSICAL THERAPY OF ANIMALS. IN ADOPTING
19 SUCH RULES, THE DIRECTOR SHALL CONSULT WITH THE PHYSICAL THERAPY
20 ADVISORY COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-41-126
21 AND WITH THE STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE ESTABLISHED
22 PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-64-105.

23 SECTION 4. Effective date. This act shall take effect July 1,
24 2007.

25 SECTION 5. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds,
26 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
27 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.