

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

**PREAMENDED**

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee  
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 07-0020.01 Duane Gall

**HOUSE BILL 07-1126**

---

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**McGihon,**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**(None),**

---

**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.*

---

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.