

Department of Planning and Budget 2023 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB2359

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Fariss

3. **Committee:** Health, Welfare and Institutions

4. **Title:** Practice of physical therapy.

5. **Summary:** Eliminates the requirement that treatment by a licensed physical therapist for more than 60 consecutive days after evaluation of the patient occurs only upon the referral and direction of a licensed doctor of medicine, osteopathy, chiropractic, podiatry, or dental surgery, a licensed nurse practitioner, or a licensed physician assistant acting under the supervision of a licensed physician. The bill also allows licensed physical therapists to practice dry needling without a referral. Additionally, the bill clarifies that a licensed physical therapist may provide, without referral or supervision, physical therapy services to students with disabilities who require physical therapy services to fulfill the provisions of their individualized education plan or physical therapy services provided under § 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The bill directs the Board of Physical Therapy to report, by December 1, 2024, to the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Education and Health and the House Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions a summary of disciplinary actions taken against physical therapists whose conduct resulted in physical harm to a patient when such patient received more than 60 consecutive days of physical therapy treatment without a physician referral.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

7. **No Fiscal Impact.**

8. **Fiscal Implications:** This legislation would not have a fiscal impact on the Department of Health Professions or the Commonwealth.

9. **Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** None.

10. **Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

11. **Other Comments:** None.