

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

**FISCAL NOTE**

L.R. No.: 0543S.01I  
Bill No.: SB 51  
Subject: Health Care Professionals; Physical Therapists; Physicians; Professional  
Registration and Licensing; Health Care  
Type: Original  
Date: January 16, 2023

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Bill Summary: This proposal modifies provisions relating to physical therapists.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>
General Revenue Fund	(\$58,995)	(\$35,831)	(\$37,766)
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue</b>	<b>(\$58,995)</b>	<b>(\$35,831)</b>	<b>(\$37,766)</b>

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>
Federal Funds*			
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

\* Revenues and Expenses Net to \$0.

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

- Estimated Net Effect (expenditures or reduced revenues) expected to exceed \$250,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act or at full implementation of the act.
- Estimated Net Effect (savings or increased revenues) expected to exceed \$250,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act or at full implementation of the act.

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>
<b>Local Government</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

## FISCAL ANALYSIS

### ASSUMPTION

Officials from the **Department of Social Services (DSS)** assume this legislation revises Chapter 334, RSMo, by adding three sections that would allow physical therapists to treat patients without a prescription or referral from an approved health care provider. Since this legislation revises Chapter 334, RSMo, and since there is no specific exemption for physical therapists that contract with the Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs) that contract with the state to provide health benefits to MO HealthNet managed Care members, it is assumed this will apply to them.

The HMOs that contract with the state have current policies and procedures that outline treatment guidelines for members for physical therapy services. This legislation revises current language to remove the requirement for a prescription or referral from an approved healthcare provider provided the physical therapist has a doctorate of physical therapy degree or has five years of clinical practice as a physical therapist. In addition, this legislation revises language that states consultation with an approved health care provider is not required if the course of physical therapy services or treatment is completed within ten visits or twenty-one business days. Providers enrolled with MO HealthNet must be licensed by the state in which they practice. In order to receive reimbursement for services provided to a MO HealthNet participant, providers must be enrolled with the state as a MO HealthNet provider. Physical therapy services must be prescribed by a primary care provider and is only a covered benefit for children. Additionally, any service included in the Individualized Education Program (IEP) developed through the public school is covered through Fee-For-Service.

Medicaid's requirement for medical necessity of physical therapy services would be impacted if the need for prescription and referral by a primary care provider (or specialist) were removed. By removing this connection to the primary care/specialist provider, utilization for these services will inevitably increase over time due to provider induced demand, potential for over treatment (due to lack of utilization controls), and difficulty in enforcement. In addition, utilization increases may be expected based on the use of in-office ancillary. Without the need for a script or other utilization control, utilization increases may be anticipated as clinicians have the ability to bill up to ten visits before they must seek further consult, and without an enforcement process, it is assumed this type of behavior will increase.

It is assumed that the Managed Care capitation rates would increase at least \$100,000 based on this legislation. For FY25 and FY26, a 5.4% medical inflation rate was used. DSS estimates the

actuarial cost to evaluate this program change to the Managed Care capitation rates to be no more than \$50,000.

FY24: Total - \$150,000 (GR - \$58,995; Federal - \$91,005)  
 FY25: Total - \$105,400 (GR - \$35,831; Federal - \$69,569)  
 FY26: Total - \$111,092 (GR - \$37,766; Federal - \$73,326)

Officials from the **Office of Administration - Administrative Hearing Commission**, the **Department of Commerce and Insurance**, the **Department of Health and Senior Services**, the **Missouri Consolidated Health Care Plan**, the **Missouri Department of Conservation**, the **Department of Transportation**, the **City of O’Fallon**, the **St. Louis Budget Division**, the **City of Springfield** and **Kansas City** each assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their respective organizations.

**Oversight** notes that the above mentioned agencies have stated the proposal would not have a direct fiscal impact on their organization. Oversight does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero impact on the fiscal note for these agencies.

Officials from the **Department of Public Safety - Missouri Highway Patrol** defer to the Missouri Department of Transportation for the potential fiscal impact of this proposal.

**Oversight** only reflects the responses received from state agencies and political subdivisions; however, counties were requested to respond to this proposed legislation but did not. A listing of political subdivisions included in the Missouri Legislative Information (MOLIS) database is available upon request.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2024 (10 Mo.)	FY 2025	FY 2026
<b>GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>			
<u>Cost – DSS</u>			
Increase in Managed Care Capitation Rates (state portion)	(\$33,995)	(\$35,831)	(\$37,766)
Actuarial Study (state portion)	(\$25,000)	\$0	\$0
<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT TO THE GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>	<b>(\$58,995)</b>	<b>(\$35,831)</b>	<b>(\$37,766)</b>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2024 (10 Mo.)	FY 2025	FY 2026
<b>FEDERAL FUNDS</b>			
<u>Revenue - DSS</u>			
Increase in Managed Care Capitation Rates	\$66,005	\$69,569	\$73,326
Actuarial Study	\$25,000	\$0	\$0
<u>Cost - DSS</u>			
Increase in Managed Care Capitation Rates (federal portion)	(\$66,005)	(\$69,569)	(\$73,326)
Actuarial Study (federal portion)	(\$25,000)	\$0	\$0
<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT TO FEDERAL FUNDS</b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2024 (10 Mo.)	FY 2025	FY 2026
	<b><u>\$0</u></b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

Small business physical therapists could be impacted by this proposal by modifying the scope of practice for physical therapist.

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

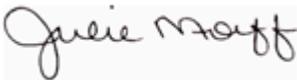
This bill changes the laws regarding physical therapists so that physical therapists no longer need a prescription or referral from a doctor in order to evaluate and initiate treatment on a patient, as long as the physical therapist has a Doctorate of Physical Therapy Degree or has five years of clinical practice as a physical therapist. However, the bill does require a physical therapist to refer to an approved health care provider any patient whose condition is beyond the physical therapist's scope of practice, or any patient who does not demonstrate measurable or functional improvement after 10 visits or 21 business days, whichever occurs first. The physical therapist must also consult with an approved health care provider before continuing therapy if after 10 visits or 21 business days, whichever occurs first, the patient has demonstrated measurable or

functional improvement from the physical therapy and the physical therapist believes that continuation of physical therapy is necessary. Continued physical therapy must be in accordance with any direction of the health care provider. The physical therapist must notify the health care provider of continuing physical therapy every 30 days. The bill removes a provision that allows the State Board of Registration for the Healing Arts to file a complaint against a physical therapist who provides physical therapy without a prescription.

This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Department of Commerce and Insurance  
Department of Health and Senior Services  
Department of Social Services  
Missouri Consolidated Health Care Plan  
Missouri Department of Conservation  
Department of Transportation  
Department of Public Safety  
Kansas City  
O'Fallon  
Springfield  
St. Louis Budget Division



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