

Department of Planning and Budget

2015 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB 776

House of Origin	<input type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron: Newman

3. Committee: Passed Both Houses

4. Title: Direct access to physical therapy.

5. Summary: Provides that a physical therapist who has completed a doctor of physical therapy program approved by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education or who has obtained a certificate of authorization may evaluate and treat patients for up to 30 days after an initial evaluation without a referral if (i) the patient is not receiving care from a licensed health care provider for the symptoms giving rise to the presentation at the time of the presentation to the physical therapist for physical therapy services or (ii) the patient is receiving care from a licensed health care provider at the time of his presentation to the physical therapist for the symptoms giving rise to the presentation for physical therapy services and the patient identifies a health care provider from whom he is currently receiving care, the patient gives written consent for the physical therapist to release all personal health information and treatment records to the identified practitioner, and the physical therapist notifies the practitioner identified by the patient no later than 14 days after treatment commences and provides the practitioner with a copy of the initial evaluation along with a copy of the patient history obtained by the physical therapist. The bill allows a physical therapist who has not completed a doctor of physical therapy program approved by the American Physical Therapy Association or received a certificate of authorization to conduct a one-time evaluation of a patient who has not met the criteria for evaluation and treatment without a referral and direction, provided the physical therapist does not provide treatment. The bill eliminates the requirement for continuing education for physical therapists who have received a certificate of authorization and eliminates the advisory committee established to consult with the Board of Physical Therapy in promulgating regulations for minimum education, training, and experience criteria.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: FINAL.

8. Fiscal Implications: This bill would have minimal fiscal impact on the Commonwealth. The Department of Health Professions has stated that this could reduce the revenue for the Board of Pharmacy because licensees who hold a doctor of physical therapy degree will not be required to obtain an additional direct access certification. While the number of

individuals directly impacted by this proposed requirement is not known, the Department of Health Professions has indicated that no changes in fees are anticipated to be necessary.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Health Professions.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: HB 1457, introduced by Delegate O'Bannon, is a companion bill.