

HOUSE BILL NO. 386

INTRODUCED BY R. EHLE

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING THAT PHYSICAL THERAPY MAY BE PRACTICED THROUGH TELEHEALTH; DEFINING "TELEHEALTH"; AND AMENDING SECTION 37-11-101, MCA."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 37-11-101, MCA, is amended to read:

"37-11-101. Definitions. Unless the context requires otherwise, in this chapter, the following definitions apply:

- (1) "Board" means the board of physical therapy examiners provided for in 2-15-1748.
- (2) "Department" means the department of labor and industry provided for in Title 2, chapter 15, part 17.
- (3) "Hearing" means the adjudicative proceeding concerning the issuance, denial, suspension, or revocation of a license, after which the appropriate action toward an applicant or licensee is to be determined by the board.
- (4) "Physical therapist" or "physiotherapist" means a person who practices physical therapy.
- (5) "Physical therapist assistant" or "assistant" means a person who:
 - (a) is a graduate of an accredited physical therapist assistant curriculum approved by the board;
 - (b) assists a physical therapist in the practice of physical therapy but who may not make evaluations or design treatment plans; and
 - (c) is supervised by a licensed physical therapist as described in 37-11-105.
- (6) "Physical therapist assistant student" means a person who is enrolled in an accredited physical therapist assistant curriculum and who as part of the clinical and educational training is practicing under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist as described in 37-11-105.
- (7) "Physical therapy" means the evaluation, treatment, and instruction of human beings, in person or through telehealth, to detect, assess, prevent, correct, alleviate, and limit physical disability, bodily malfunction and pain, injury, and any bodily or mental conditions by the use of therapeutic exercise, prescribed topical medications, and rehabilitative procedures for the purpose of preventing, correcting, or alleviating a physical or mental disability.

