

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

John J. Cronin

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to physical therapy.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

John J. Cronin

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Worcester and Middlesex

SENATE No.

[Pin Slip]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)

An Act relative to physical therapy.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 23A of Chapter 112 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
2 striking out the definition of “physical therapy” and inserting the following:-

3 “Physical therapy”, a health profession that utilizes the application of scientific
4 principles for the identification, prevention, remediation, habilitation, and rehabilitation of acute
5 or prolonged physical dysfunction thereby promoting optimal health and function. Physical
6 therapy practice is evaluation, prevention, treatment, management, and education related to
7 neurological, musculoskeletal, cardiovascular, integumentary, and respiratory functions. Such
8 evaluation shall include but is not limited to the administration and interpretation of tests and
9 measures, including diagnostic imaging, electrodiagnostic and electrophysiological tests and
10 measures, as an aid to the diagnosis and the creation of patient management plans. Such
11 treatment shall include but is not limited to the use of therapeutic exercise, physical activities,
12 traction, mobilization, functional and endurance training, bronchopulmonary care, postural
13 drainage, splinting and bracing, massage, heat, cold, water, radiant energy, light, electricity or

14 sound. Such education shall include teaching both patient and family physical therapy
15 procedures as part of a patient's ongoing program. Such management shall include authorization
16 to directly recommend and prescribe durable medical equipment to patients. Physical therapy
17 also shall include the delegating of selective forms of treatment to physical therapist assistants
18 and physical therapy aides; provided, however, that the physical therapist so delegating shall
19 assume the responsibility for the care of the patient and the supervision of the physical therapist
20 assistant or physical therapy aide.

21 Physical therapy shall also include the providing of consultation services for health,
22 educational, and community agencies.”

23