

**SENATE BILL NO. 2122**

Introduced by

Senators Bekkedahl, Bakke, Kreun

Representatives Paur, Sanford

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 43-26.1 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to permitting physical therapists to order musculoskeletal medical  
3 imaging; and to amend and reenact subsection 14 of section 43-26.1-01 of the North Dakota  
4 Century Code, relating to the scope of practice of physical therapists.

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

6 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 14 of section 43-26.1-01 of the North Dakota  
7 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

8 14. "Practice of physical therapy" means:

- 9 a. Examining, evaluating, and testing individuals with mechanical, physiological,  
10 and developmental impairments, functional limitations in movement and mobility,  
11 and disabilities or other health and movement-related conditions to determine a  
12 diagnosis for physical therapy, prognosis, and plan of therapeutic intervention,  
13 and to assess the ongoing effects of intervention. The term includes ordering  
14 musculoskeletal imaging consisting of plain film radiographs to be performed by a  
15 professional authorized by chapter 43-62 and interpreted by a licensed  
16 radiologist, and using these results to determine if a referral to another health  
17 care provide is necessary or indicates the necessary treatment is within the  
18 physical therapist's scope of practice.
- 19 b. Alleviating impairments, functional limitations in movement and mobility, and  
20 disabilities by designing, implementing and modifying therapeutic interventions  
21 that may include therapeutic exercise; neuromuscular education; functional  
22 training related to positioning, movement, and mobility in self-care and in-home,  
23 community, or work integration or reintegration; manual therapy; therapeutic  
24 massage; prescription, application and, as appropriate, fabrication of assistive,

1                   adaptive, orthotic, prosthetic, protective, and supportive devices and equipment  
2                   related to positioning, movement, and mobility; airway clearance techniques;  
3                   integumentary protection and repair techniques; debridement and wound care;  
4                   physiotherapy; physical agents or modalities; mechanical and electrotherapeutic  
5                   modalities; and patient-related instruction.

6                   c.   Engaging as a physical therapist in reducing the risk of injury, impairment,  
7                   functional limitation and disability, including the promotion and maintenance of  
8                   fitness, health, and wellness in populations of all ages.

9                   d.   Engaging as a physical therapist in administration, consultation, education, and  
10                  research.

11                **SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 43-26.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
12 and enacted as follows:

13                **Ordering imaging.**

14                A physical therapist may order musculoskeletal imaging consisting of plain film radiographs  
15 if the physical therapist holds a clinical doctorate degree in physical therapy or has completed a  
16 board-approved formal medical imaging training program.