

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

S.B. 556
By: Nelson
Health Services
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As Filed

DIGEST

Currently, Texas authorizes physicians licensed to practice in the State of Texas to refer patients to an occupational therapist. In some cases it is necessary for a licensed chiropractor or podiatrist operating in the scope of practice to be able to refer patients to an occupational therapist for treatment. S.B. 556 would authorize licensed qualified health care professionals, within the scope of the professional's licensure, to refer health care services to occupational therapists.

PURPOSE

As proposed, S.B. 556 authorizes referrals to occupational therapists.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 27, Article 8851, V.T.C.S.(Occupational Therapy Practice Act), as follows:

Sec. 27. New heading: PRACTITIONER'S REFERRAL. Requires implementation of direct occupational therapy to individuals for their specific health care conditions, rather than medical conditions, to be based on a referral from a physician licensed by the physicians's respective state licensing board. Provides that the professional taking an action under this section is a referring practitioner. Deletes text regarding a physician licensed to practice in the State of Texas.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 1999.

SECTION 3. Emergency clause.