



## 2015 SENATE BILL 453

December 11, 2015 - Introduced by Senators WANGGAARD, VUKMIR, GUDEx, KAPENGA, NASS and STROEBEL, cosponsored by Representatives SANFELIPPO, BALLWEG, DUCHOW, EDMING, HORLACHER, KITCHENS, KNODL, KREMER, KRUG, MACCO, A. OTT, QUINN, ROHRKASTE, SWEARINGEN, TAUCHEN, C. TAYLOR, THIESFELDT, TITTL and WEATHERSTON. Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services.

1     **AN ACT to renumber and amend** 448.50 (4) (b); **to amend** 462.04; and **to create**  
2     448.56 (7) of the statutes; **relating to:** the authority of physical therapists to  
3     order X-rays and granting rule-making authority.

---

### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

This bill allows for X-rays to be ordered by physical therapists who satisfy certain criteria.

Under current law, X-rays may generally only be performed if authorized pursuant to a prescription or order issued by one of several types of licensed medical professionals specified under current law. This bill adds licensed physical therapists to this list of licensed medical professionals authorized to prescribe or order the use of diagnostic X-ray equipment. The bill provides, however, that a licensed physical therapist may only order X-rays if the physical therapist satisfies one of certain conditions specified in the bill. In addition, the bill provides that the physical therapist must, when ordering X-rays, communicate with the patient's primary care physician or an appropriate health care provider to ensure coordination of care, unless certain criteria that are specified in the bill apply.

For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

---

***The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:***

**SENATE BILL 453**

1           **SECTION 1.** 448.50 (4) (b) of the statutes is renumbered 448.50 (4) (b) (intro.)  
2 and amended to read:

3           448.50 (4) (b) (intro.) “Physical therapy” does not include using any of the  
4 following:

5           1. Using roentgen rays or radium for any purpose, using except that “physical  
6 therapy” includes ordering X-rays to be performed by qualified persons, subject to  
7 s. 448.56 (7) (a), and using X-ray results to determine a course of care or to determine  
8 whether a referral to another health care provider is necessary.

9           2. Using electricity for surgical purposes, including cauterization,~~or~~  
10 prescribing.

11           3. Prescribing drugs or devices.

12           **SECTION 2.** 448.56 (7) of the statutes is created to read:

13           448.56 (7) ORDERING X-RAYS. (a) A physical therapist may order X-rays to be  
14 performed by qualified persons only if the physical therapist satisfies one of the  
15 following qualifications, as further specified by the examining board by rule:

16           1. The physical therapist holds a clinical doctorate degree in physical therapy.

17           2. The physical therapist has completed a nationally recognized specialty  
18 certification program.

19           3. The physical therapist has completed a nationally recognized residency or  
20 fellowship certified by an organization recognized by the examining board.

21           4. The physical therapist has completed a formal X-ray ordering training  
22 program with demonstrated physician involvement.

23           (b) When a physical therapist orders an X-ray, the physical therapist shall  
24 communicate with the patient’s primary care physician or an appropriate health care  
25 practitioner to ensure coordination of care, unless all of the following apply:

**SENATE BILL 453**

1           1. A radiologist has read the X-ray and not identified a significant finding.

2           2. The patient does not have a primary care physician.

3           3. The patient was not referred to the physical therapist by another health care  
4 practitioner to receive care from the physical therapist.

5           **SECTION 3.** 462.04 of the statutes is amended to read:

6           **462.04 Prescription or order required.** A person who holds a license or  
7 limited X-ray machine operator permit under this chapter may not use diagnostic  
8 X-ray equipment on humans for diagnostic purposes unless authorized to do so by  
9 prescription or order of a physician licensed under s. 448.04 (1) (a), a dentist licensed  
10 under s. 447.04 (1), a podiatrist licensed under s. 448.63, a chiropractor licensed  
11 under s. 446.02, an advanced practice nurse certified under s. 441.16 (2), ~~or~~ a  
12 physician assistant licensed under s. 448.04 (1) (f), or, subject to s. 448.56 (7) (a), a  
13 physical therapist licensed under s. 448.53.

14                                   (END)