



## Revisor No. 26-07226 (Nadeau); Teachers Retirement Association; 2026 Administrative Bill

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### Introduction

- Affected Plan:** Teachers Retirement Association (TRA)
- Laws Amended:** Minnesota Statutes, sections [354.05](#), [354.07](#), and [354.48](#)
- Brief Description:** The bill adds a definition of “medical provider” and adds “physician assistant” to the medical providers who can submit a report in support of a member's application to receive or continue to receive disability pension benefits.

### Background

Section 354.48, subdivision 4, requires that a member of TRA who is applying for disability benefits be “examined by at least two at least two licensed physicians, licensed chiropractors, or licensed psychologists.” Section 354.48, subdivision 4, goes on to state that “[t]hese physicians, chiropractors, APRNs, or psychologists with respect to a mental impairment” must provide a report about the member’s disability to TRA. TRA requires that one report be completed by a licensed physician, chiropractor, psychologist, or APRN (Advanced Practice Registered Nurse), while the second report must be completed by a licensed physician. See [Disability Coverage, TRA](#).

At TRA’s November 19, 2025, Board of Trustees meeting, the Board considered the issue that members who receive medical care from a licensed physician assistant are unable to have that physician assistant submit documentation to TRA for disability pension benefits. See red page 38 of the [November 19, 2025, Board meeting materials](#). The Board materials state that “[t]his causes frustration and additional work for members as they seek additional, permitted signatures.” See red page 38 of the [November 19, 2025, Board meeting materials](#). Therefore, the TRA Board passed a motion to seek legislation that would add physician assistants to the providers that can examine members and provide documentation to TRA for disability benefit purposes.

## Section- by- Section Summary

### Section 1: Defining “medical provider”

**Section 1** amends section 354.05 by adding a subdivision to define the term “medical provider.” Section 1 defines “medical provider” as “an individual licensed as a physician, chiropractor, physician assistant, APRN, or, with respect to a mental impairment, a psychologist.”

Section 1 is effective the day following final enactment.

### Section 2: Using “medical provider” in powers of the Board section

**Section 2** amends section 354.07, subdivision 2, to replace the word “physician” with “medical provider” in stating the Board may require a claimant to submit to a medical examination for claims for disability benefits.

Section 2 is effective the day following final enactment.

### Sections 3–4: Using “medical provider” in disability benefits section

**Section 3** amends section 354.48, subdivision 4, paragraph (a), to require that the member be examined by “a licensed physician and one or more medical providers.” Section 3 amends section 354.48, subdivision 4, paragraph (b), to clarify that the medical providers selected to do the examination must also provide a written report to TRA. The remainder of the changes in section 2 are conforming or technical changes.

**Section 4** amends section 354.48, subdivision 6, by replacing the list of providers that a member receiving a disability benefit may be examined by with the term “medical provider.” Section 4 also amends section 354.48, subdivision 6, to use a clearer sentence structure in the case that it is determined that a member is no longer disabled or the member is engaged or can engage in a substantial gainful occupation.

Sections 3 and 4 are effective the day following final enactment.