

March 29, 1999

**S 540. ORTHOPEDIC PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS. ESTABLISHING A COMMITTEE ON ORTHOPEDIC PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS AND A SYSTEM TO CERTIFY ORTHOPEDIC PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS.** Enacts new GS Ch. 90, Art. 37, for purposes set out in title.

Establishes NC Committee on Orthopedic Physician Assistants as a committee within the NC Board of Medical Examiners (Board); provides that committee has five members appointed by Governor and two members appointed by Board, both of whom must be members of Board, and that all members serve three-year terms. Charges committee with establishing and operating a certification program for orthopedic physician assistants, including approving applicants for certification and recertification, disciplining certificate holders, and setting fees for examination, certification, and renewal. Prohibits anyone from acting as orthopedic physician assistant without certification, and sets out minimum requirements for such certification: successfully completing examination of National Board for Certification of Orthopedic Physician's Assistants and either be acting as such an assistant on effective date of act or have graduated from orthopedic physician assistant training program approved by committee and by Board. Requires that such assistants be supervised by licensed orthopedic physician or surgeon, and sets out details of required supervision.

**Intro. by Jordan.**

Ref. to Health Care

GS 90