

April 9, 2009

H 1374. UPDATE AND MODERNIZE PHYSICAL THERAPY ACT. Filed 4/8/09. TO MAKE CHANGES TO SOME PARTS OF THE NORTH CAROLINA PHYSICAL THERAPY PRACTICE ACT BY REVISING AND UPDATING STATUTORY LANGUAGE TO MORE APPROPRIATELY REFLECT NATIONALLY ACCEPTED STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PRACTICE OF PHYSICAL THERAPY, TO AUTHORIZE PHYSICAL THERAPISTS TO JOIN SOME TWENTY-THREE OTHER LICENSED PROFESSIONAL GROUPS BY PARTICIPATING IN THE NORTH CAROLINA PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION ACT, AND TO PROVIDE OTHER MODIFICATIONS.

Amends statutory provisions in GS Chapter 90 regarding licensure of physical therapists as title indicates. Revises definitions of *physical therapist*, *physical therapist assistant*, *physical therapy aid*, and *physical therapy*. Creates new definitions for *physiotherapy* and *restricted license*. Provides for issuance of restricted license. Expands the powers of the NC Board of Physical Therapy Examiners. Authorizes criminal history record checks of licensure applicants or investigation subjects in the practice of physical therapy. Requires applicants for licensure as physical therapists or physical therapist assistants to meet specified qualifications, including passing a national examination. Enacts new GS 90-270.31.1 allowing licensed physical therapists to form professional corporations to render physical therapy professional services in accordance with GS Chapter 55B. Amends GS 90-270.34(a) allowing certain physical therapists and physical therapist assistants who are licensed in other jurisdictions to practice physical therapy in North Carolina. Creates additional grounds for disciplinary action. Makes conforming and technical changes. Makes a conforming change to GS 55B-2(6).

Intro. by Gibson, Allen.

GS 90, 55B