

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2017

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SENATE BILL DRS55022-MGqq-36A (01/26)

Short Title: Modernize Physical Therapy Practice. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Pate, Rabin, and Krawiec (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT UPDATING THE DEFINITION OF PHYSICAL THERAPY TO INCLUDE  
3 MANIPULATION OF THE SPINE WITHOUT A PRESCRIPTION FROM A PHYSICIAN  
4 LICENSED TO PRACTICE MEDICINE IN THIS STATE.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 90-270.24(4) reads as rewritten:

7 "(4) "Physical therapy" means the evaluation or treatment of any person by the use  
8 of physical, chemical, or other properties of heat, light, water, electricity,  
9 sound, massage, or therapeutic exercise, or other rehabilitative procedures, with  
10 or without assistive devices, for the purposes of preventing, correcting, or  
11 alleviating a physical or mental disability. Physical therapy includes the  
12 performance of specialized tests of neuromuscular function, administration of  
13 specialized therapeutic procedures, interpretation and implementation of  
14 referrals from licensed medical doctors or dentists, and establishment and  
15 modification of physical therapy programs for patients. Evaluation and  
16 treatment of patients may involve physical measures, methods, or procedures as  
17 are found commensurate with physical therapy education and training and  
18 generally or specifically authorized by regulations of the Board. Physical  
19 therapy education and training shall include study of the skeletal manifestations  
20 of systemic disease. Physical therapy does not include the application of  
21 roentgen rays or radioactive materials, surgery, ~~manipulation of the spine unless~~  
22 ~~prescribed by a physician licensed to practice medicine in North Carolina, or~~  
23 ~~medical diagnosis of disease."~~

24 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2017.



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