

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2019

H.B. 548  
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH30249-NB-53

Short Title: Modify Physical Therapy Definition. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Grange, Torbett, White, and Dobson (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

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

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 90-270.90(4) reads as rewritten:

8 "(4) "Physical therapy" means the evaluation or treatment of any person by the use  
9 of physical, chemical, or other properties of heat, light, water, electricity,  
10 sound, massage, or therapeutic exercise, or other rehabilitative procedures,  
11 with or without assistive devices, for the purposes of preventing, correcting,  
12 or alleviating a physical or mental disability. Physical therapy includes the  
13 performance of specialized tests of neuromuscular function, administration of  
14 specialized therapeutic procedures, interpretation and implementation of  
15 referrals from licensed medical doctors or dentists, and establishment and  
16 modification of physical therapy programs for patients. Evaluation and  
17 treatment of patients may involve physical measures, methods, or procedures  
18 as are found commensurate with physical therapy education and training and  
19 generally or specifically authorized by regulations of the Board. Physical  
20 therapy education and training shall include study of the skeletal  
21 manifestations of systemic disease. Physical therapy does not include the  
22 application of roentgen rays or radioactive materials, surgery, ~~manipulation of~~  
23 ~~the spine unless prescribed by a physician licensed to practice medicine in~~  
24 ~~North Carolina, the practice of chiropractic, as defined by G.S. 90-143, or~~  
25 ~~medical diagnosis of disease."~~

26 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2019.

