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SENATE BILL 177

Short Title:	Modernize Physical Therapy Practice.	(Public)

Sponsors:	Senators Pate, Rabin, Krawiec (Primary Sponsors); Cook, D. Davis, J. Davis, Lowe, and Woodard.

Referred to:	Rules and Operations of the Senate

March 6, 2017

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.