



CHAPTER 90
ARTICLE 18E - PHYSICAL THERAPY

N.C.G.S. § 90-270.101.

(Effective until October 1, 2026)
Exemptions from licensure; certain
practices exempted.

SOURCE General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT S.L. 2026-16, s. 11 — ninth act in the lineage	RETRIEVED 21 September 2026, 03:11 UTC	SOURCE FINGERPRINT 428f89b80038a67b57594c10 - ef0cd07dae2e297462686bb9 - 00f77252d82ad9c3
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- § 90-270.101(a) The following persons shall be permitted to practice physical therapy or assist in the practice in this State without obtaining a license under this Article upon the terms and conditions specified herein:
- (1) Students enrolled in accredited physical therapist or physical therapist assistant educational programs, while engaged in completing a clinical requirement for graduation, which must be performed under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist;
 - (2) Physical therapists licensed in other jurisdictions while enrolled in graduate educational programs in this State that include the evaluation and treatment of patients as part of their experience required for credit, so long as the student is not at the same time gainfully employed in this State as a physical therapist;
 - (3) Practitioners of physical therapy employed in the Armed Forces of the United States, United States Public Health Service, Veterans Administration or other federal agency, to the extent permitted under federal law, so long as the practitioner limits services to those directly relating to work with the employing government agency;

- (4) Physical therapists or physical therapist assistants licensed in other jurisdictions who are teaching or participating in special physical therapy education projects, demonstrations or courses in this State, in which their participation in the evaluation and treatment of patients is minimal;
- (5) A physical therapy aide while in the performance of those acts and practices specified in G.S. 90-270.90(5);
- (6) Persons authorized to perform as physical therapists or physical therapist assistants under the provision of G.S. 90-270.98;
- (7) Physical therapists or physical therapist assistants who are licensed in another jurisdiction of the United States or credentialed in another country, if that person by contract or employment is providing physical therapy to individuals affiliated with or employed by established athletic teams, athletic organizations, or performing arts companies temporarily practicing, competing, or performing in this State for no more than 60 days in a calendar year;
- (8) Physical therapists or physical therapist assistants licensed in another jurisdiction of the United States who enter this State to provide physical therapy during a declared local, State, or national disaster or emergency. The exemption applies no longer than the standard annual renewal time in the State. To be eligible for the exemption, the licensee shall notify the Board of the licensee's intent to practice physical therapy pursuant to this subdivision;
- (9) Physical therapists or physical therapist assistants licensed in another jurisdiction of the United States who are forced to leave their residence or place of employment due to a declared local, State, or national disaster or emergency and, due to such displacement, need to practice physical therapy. The exemption applies no longer than the standard annual renewal time but may be renewed by the Board for additional periods. To be eligible for the exemption, the licensee shall notify the Board of the licensee's intent to practice physical therapy pursuant to this subdivision.

§ 90-270.101(b) Nothing in this Article shall be construed to prohibit:

- (1) Any act in the lawful practice of a profession by a person duly licensed in this State;

- (2) The administration of simple massages and the operation of health clubs so long as not intended to constitute or represent the practice of physical therapy. (1951, c. 1131, ss. 9, 11; 1959, c. 630; 1969, c. 556; 1979, c. 487; 1985, c. 701, s. 1; 2011-183, s. 66; 2013-312, s. 5; 2017-28, s. 1.)

§ 90-270.101. (Effective October 1, 2026) Exemptions from licensure; certain practices exempted.

§ 90-270.101(a)

The following persons shall be permitted to practice physical therapy or assist in the practice in this State without obtaining a license under this Article upon the terms and conditions specified herein:

- (1) Students enrolled in accredited physical therapist or physical therapist assistant educational programs, while engaged in completing a clinical requirement for graduation, which must be performed under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist;
- (2) Physical therapists licensed in other jurisdictions while enrolled in graduate educational programs in this State that include the evaluation and treatment of patients as part of their experience required for credit, so long as the student is not at the same time gainfully employed in this State as a physical therapist;
- (3) Practitioners of physical therapy employed in the Armed Forces of the United States, United States Public Health Service, Veterans Administration or other federal agency, to the extent permitted under federal law, so long as the practitioner limits services to those directly relating to work with the employing government agency;
- (4) Physical therapists or physical therapist assistants licensed in other jurisdictions who are teaching or participating in special physical therapy education projects, demonstrations or courses in this State, in which their participation in the evaluation and treatment of patients is minimal;
- (5) A physical therapy aide while in the performance of those acts and practices specified in G.S. 90-270.90(5);
- (6) Repealed by Session Laws 2026-16, s. 11, effective October 1, 2026.

- (7) Physical therapists or physical therapist assistants who are licensed in another jurisdiction of the United States or credentialed in another country, if that person by contract or employment is providing physical therapy to individuals affiliated with or employed by established athletic teams, athletic organizations, or performing arts companies temporarily practicing, competing, or performing in this State for no more than 60 days in a calendar year;
- (8) Physical therapists or physical therapist assistants licensed in another jurisdiction of the United States who enter this State to provide physical therapy during a declared local, State, or national disaster or emergency. The exemption applies no longer than the standard annual renewal time in the State. To be eligible for the exemption, the licensee shall notify the Board of the licensee's intent to practice physical therapy pursuant to this subdivision;
- (9) Physical therapists or physical therapist assistants licensed in another jurisdiction of the United States who are forced to leave their residence or place of employment due to a declared local, State, or national disaster or emergency and, due to such displacement, need to practice physical therapy. The exemption applies no longer than the standard annual renewal time but may be renewed by the Board for additional periods. To be eligible for the exemption, the licensee shall notify the Board of the licensee's intent to practice physical therapy pursuant to this subdivision.
- (10) Physical therapist or physical therapist assistant applicants seeking licensure or revival while completing the clinical practice requirements required by this Article and licensees performing remediation. Completing the clinical practice requirement without a license under this subdivision and performing remediation shall be performed under a Board-approved plan and supervision of a licensed physical therapist.

§ 90-270.101(b)

Nothing in this Article shall be construed to prohibit:

- (1) Any act in the lawful practice of a profession by a person duly licensed in this State;
- (2) The administration of simple massages and the operation of health clubs so long as not intended to constitute or represent the practice of physical therapy.

APPARATUS I

9 ACTS

Amendment lineage

The State prints this history as a single parenthetical at the foot of the section. It is reproduced verbatim in the colophon and unpacked below in order of enactment.



Nº	YEAR	ACT	CHARACTER
01	1951	c. 1131, ss. 9, 11	ENACTED
02	1959	c. 630	AMENDED
03	1969	c. 556	AMENDED
04	1979	c. 487	AMENDED
05	1985	c. 701, s. 1	AMENDED
06	2011	S.L. 2011-183, s. 66	AMENDED
07	2013	S.L. 2013-312, s. 5	AMENDED
08	2017	S.L. 2017-28, s. 1	AMENDED
09	2026	S.L. 2026-16, s. 11	AMENDED

APPARATUS II

2 AUTHORITIES

Authorities referenced

Every G.S. cross-reference appearing in the text of this section, in order of first appearance. Nothing is characterized; the operative language is quoted from the section itself.

REFERENCE	APPEARS IN	OPERATIVE LANGUAGE IN THIS SECTION
G.S. 90-270.90(5)	(a)(5)	<i>"those acts and practices specified in"</i>
G.S. 90-270.98	(a)(6)	<i>"therapist assistants under the provision of"</i>

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-270.101 (2026).

PINPOINT

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-270.101(a) (2026).

Pinpoint keys are set in the left margin of the text rather than line numbers: subsection designators are stable across editions and paper sizes, line numbers are not.

COLOPHON

Provenance

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HISTORY PARENTHETICAL, AS PRINTED BY THE STATE

(1951, c. 1131, ss. 9, 11; 1959, c. 630; 1969, c. 556; 1979, c. 487; 1985, c. 701, s. 1; 2011-183, s. 66; 2013-312, s. 5; 2017-28, s. 1; 2026-16, s. 11.)

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