GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2005

H D

HOUSE DRH70096-LUf-4A* (11/9)

Short Title: Amend Occupational Therapy Laws/Fees. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Nye.

Referred to:

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A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN LAWS RELATING TO THE NORTH CAROLINA OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PRACTICE ACT AND AUTHORIZING THE NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY TO RAISE THE CEILING ON ITS FEES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 90-270.66 reads as rewritten:

"§ 90-270.66. Declaration of purpose.

The North Carolina Occupational Therapy Practice Act is enacted to safeguard the public health, safety and welfare, to protect the public from being harmed by unqualified persons, to assure the highest degree of professional <u>eare services</u> and conduct on the part of occupational therapists and occupational <u>therapist therapy</u> assistants, to provide for the establishment of <u>standards of education, licensure requirements</u>, and to insure the availability of occupational therapy services of high quality to persons in need of such services. It is the purpose of this Article to provide for the regulation of persons offering occupational therapy services to the public."

SECTION 2. G.S. 90-270.67 reads as rewritten:

"§ 90-270.67. Definitions.

As used in this Article, unless the context clearly requires a different meaning:

- (1) Accrediting body. The Accrediting Council for Occupational Therapy Education.
- 22 (1)(1a) "Board" means the Board. The North Carolina Board of Occupational Therapy.
 - (1b) Examining body. The National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy.

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"Occupational therapist" means an Occupational therapist. – An (2) 1 2 individual licensed in good standing to practice occupational therapy 3 as defined in this Article. "Occupational therapist assistant" means an Occupational therapy 4 (3) 5 assistant. - An individual licensed in good standing to assist in the 6 practice of occupational therapy under this Article, who performs 7 activities commensurate with his or her education and training under 8 the supervision of a licensed occupational therapist. "Occupational therapy" means a health care profession providing 9 (4) 10 evaluation, treatment and consultation to help individuals achieve a maximum level of independence by developing skills and abilities 11 12 interfered with by disease, emotional disorder, physical injury, the aging process, or impaired development. Occupational therapists use 13

independence at home and in the work place.

Occupational therapy. – The therapeutic use of everyday life activities with individuals or groups for the purpose of participation in roles and situations in home, school, workplace, community, or other settings.

purposeful activities and specially designed orthotic and prosthetic

devices to reduce specific impairments and to help individuals achieve

(5) "Person" means any Person. – Any individual, partnership, unincorporated organization, or corporate body, except that only an individual may be licensed under this Article."

SECTION 3. Article 18D of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

"§ 90-270.67A. Practice of occupational therapy.

Occupational therapy services are provided to those who have or are at risk for developing an illness, injury, disease, disorder, condition, impairment, disability, activity limitation, or participation restriction. Occupational therapy addresses the physical, cognitive, psychological, sensory, and other aspects of performance in a variety of contexts to support engagement in everyday life activities that affect health, well-being, and quality of life. The practice of occupational therapy includes:

- (a) Various methods that shall include the following:
 - (1) Establishment, remediation, or restoration of a skill that has not yet developed or is impaired.
 - (2) Compensation, modification, or adaptation of activity or environment to enhance performance.
 - (3) <u>Maintenance and enhancement of capabilities without which</u> performance in everyday life activities would decline.
 - (4) Health and wellness promotion to enable or enhance performance in everyday life activities.
 - (5) Prevention of barriers to performance, including disability prevention.
- (b) Evaluation of factors affecting activities of daily living 'ADL', instrumental activities of daily living 'IADL', education, work, play, leisure, and social participation including:

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Client factors, including physiological and anatomical systems. (1) 1 2 (2) Habits, routines, roles, and behavior patterns. 3 (3) Cultural, physical, environmental, social and spiritual contexts, and activity demands that affect performance. 4 5 **(4)** Performance skills, including motor, process, and interaction skills. 6 (c) Interventions and procedures to promote or enhance safety and performance in activities of daily living 'ADL', instrumental activities of daily living 'IADL', 7 8 education, work, play, leisure, and social participation including: 9 (1) Therapeutic use of occupations, exercises, and activities. Training in self-care, self-management, home management, and 10 (2) community or work reintegration. 11 12 (3) Development, remediation, or compensation of physical, cognitive, neuromuscular, and behavioral skills. 13 14 (4) Therapeutic use of self, including the client's personality, insights, 15 perceptions, and judgments as part of the therapeutic process. Education and training of individuals, including family members, 16 (5) 17 caregivers, and others. 18 Care coordination, case management, and transition services. <u>(6)</u> Consultative services to groups, programs, organizations, 19 <u>(7)</u> 20 communities. Modification of environments, including home, work, school, or 21 **(8)** community and adaptation of processes, including the application of 22 23 ergonomic principles. 24 Assessment, design, fabrication, application, fitting, and training in (9) assistive technology, adaptive devices, and orthotic devices and 25 training in the use of prosthetic devices. 26 Assessment, recommendation, and training in techniques to enhance 27 (10)mobility, including wheelchair management and adaptive driving. 28 Management of feeding, eating, and swallowing to enable eating and 29 (11)30 feeding performance. Application of physical agent modalities and use of a range of specific 31 (12)32 therapeutic procedures, including wound care management, techniques to enhance sensory, perceptual, and cognitive processing, and manual 33 therapy techniques to enhance performance skills." 34 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 90-270.68 reads as rewritten: 35 "§ 90-270.68. Establishment of Board, terms of members, terms, vacancies, 36 37 removal, meetings, compensation. Establishment of Board. - The North Carolina Board of Occupational 38 Therapy is created. The Board shall have six members. All members shall beconsist of 39 seven members who are appointed by the Governor and shall beare residents of this 40 41 State at the time of and during their appointment, as follows: 42 (1) Three members shall be occupational therapists and one member shall be an occupational therapist assistant; eachtherapy assistant. Each of 43 these members shall be licensed to practice in North Carolina and have 44

- practiced, taught, or engaged in research in occupational therapy for at least three of the five years immediately preceding appointment to the Board.
 - (2) The fifth boardOne member shall be a physician in good standing with the North Carolina Medical Board and licensed by and registered with the North Carolina Medical Board to practice medicine; and medicine in this State.
 - (3) the sixth board One member shall represent the public at large and shall be a person who is not a health care provider licensed under this Chapter. Chapter or the spouse of a licensed health care provider.
 - (4) One member shall be a counselor, educator, or school-based professional certified or licensed under North Carolina law who is employed in the North Carolina Public School System and is not an occupational therapist or an occupational therapy assistant.

The medical doctor, occupational therapists, and occupational therapist assistant occupational therapist members and the occupational therapy assistant member shall be appointed by the Governor from a list compilednominated by the North Carolina Occupational Therapy Association, Inc., following the use of a nomination procedure made available to all occupational therapists and occupational therapist therapy assistants licensed and residing in North Carolina. In soliciting nominations and compiling its list, the Association shall give consideration to geographic distribution, clinical specialty, and other factors that will promote representation of all aspects of occupational therapy practice. The records of the nomination procedures shall be filed with the Board and made available for a period of six months following nomination for reasonable inspection by any licensed practitioner of occupational therapy.

The physician member shall be nominated by the North Carolina Occupational Therapy Association, Inc., after consultation with the North Carolina Medical Society. The counselor, educator, or school-based professional member shall be nominated by the North Carolina Occupational Therapy Association, Inc., after consultation with the North Carolina School Counselor's Association.

- (b) Terms. Members of the Board shall serve four-year staggered terms. No member shall serve more than two consecutive four-year terms, unless a member is appointed to fill a vacancy for an unexpired term, then that member may complete the unexpired term and serve one additional four-year term.
- (c) <u>Vacancies.</u>—In the event that—a member of the Board cannot complete a term of office, the vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the Governor, in accordance with the procedures set forth in this section, for the remainder of the unexpired term.
- (d) Removal. The Board may remove any of its members for neglect of duty, incompetence, or unprofessional conduct. A member subject to disciplinary proceedings shall be disqualified from participating in Board business until the charges are resolved.
- <u>(e) Meetings. Each year the Board shall meet and designate a chairman chairperson, a vice-chairperson, and a secretary-treasurer from among its members. The Board may hold additional meetings upon call of the chairman chairperson or any two board members. A majority of the Board membership shall constitute a quorum.</u>

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Compensation. – Members of the Board shall receive no compensation for 1 2 their services, but shall be entitled to travel, per diem, and other expenses authorized by 3 G.S. 93B-5." **SECTION 5.** G.S. 90-270.69 reads as rewritten: 4 5 "§ 90-270.69. Powers and duties of the Board. The Board shall have the following powers and duties: 6 7 Examine Establish and determine the qualifications and fitness of (1) 8 applicants for licensure to practice occupational therapy in this 9 State:State. 10 (2) Conduct investigations, subpoena individuals and records, and do all other things necessary and proper to discipline persons licensed under 11 12 this Article and to enforce this Article: Article. Communicate disciplinary actions to relevant State and federal 13 (2a) 14 authorities and to other state occupational therapy licensing authorities. 15 (3) Issue and renew, and deny, suspend, revoke or refuse to issue or renew any license under this Article; Article. 16 17 (4) Adopt, amend, or repeal any reasonable rules or regulations necessary 18 to carry out the purposes of this Article, including but not limited to 19 rules establishing ethical standards of practice; practice. Employ professional, clerical, investigative or special personnel 20 (5) 21 necessary to carry out the provisions of this Article, and purchase or rent office space, equipment and supplies; supplies. 22 Adopt a seal by which it shall authenticate its proceedings, official 23 (6) records, and licenses;licenses. 24 Conduct administrative hearings in accordance with Chapter 150B of 25 (7) the General Statutes when a "contested case" as defined in 26 27 G.S. 150B-2(2) arises under this Article; Article. Establish reasonable fees for applications for examination; initial, 28 (8) 29 provisional, initial limited permits and renewal licenses; licenses and 30 other services provided by the Board; Board. Submit an annual report to the Governor and General Assembly of all 31 (9) 32 its official actions during the preceding year, together with any 33 recommendations and findings regarding improvement of the profession of occupational therapy; therapy. 34 35 (10)Publish and make available upon request the licensure standards prescribed under this Article and all rules and regulations established 36 by the Board: Board. 37 Approve educational curricula and field work experience accredited by 38 (11)39 the American Medical Association and American Occupational Therapy Association for persons seeking licensure under this 40 Article. Conduct a training program as needed for new board members 41

SECTION 6. G.S. 90-270.70 reads as rewritten:

"§ 90-270.70. Requirements for licensure.

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designed to familiarize new members with their duties."

- (a) Any individual who desires to be licensed as an occupational therapist or occupational therapist therapy assistant shall file a written application with the Board on forms provided by the Board, showing to the satisfaction of the Board that the applicant:
 - (1) Is of good moral character; and
 - (2) Has passed an examination <u>approved</u> by the Board as provided in this Article.

Applicants for licensure as an occupational therapist must also have successfully completed an accredited occupational therapy educational curriculum and the required supervised field work experience of at least six months' duration. fieldwork as determined by the Board. Applicants for licensure as an occupational therapy assistant must also have successfully completed an accredited occupational therapy assistant educational curriculum and the required supervised field work experience of at least two months' duration. fieldwork as determined by the Board.

(b) Occupational therapists who are trained outside of the United States and its territories shall satisfy the examination and educational requirements as stated in subsection (a) of this section. The Board shall require these applicants to meet examination eligibility requirements as established by the credentialing body recognized by the Board before taking the examination."

SECTION 7. G.S. 90-270.71 is repealed.

SECTION 8. G.S. 90-270.72 reads as rewritten:

"§ 90-270.72. Exemption from requirements.

- (a) The Board shall waive the examination, education, and field work requirements of G.S. 90-270.70 and shall grant a license to any applicant who presents evidence satisfactory to the Board that he or she has been engaged in the practice of occupational therapy as an occupational therapist or occupational therapist assistant before September 1, 1984. Proof of such actual practice shall be presented to the Board as established by regulation. To qualify for exemption under this section, the applicant shall file an application for licensure no later than September 1, 1985.
- (b) The Board may grant a license without examination to any applicant who exempt an applicant from certain licensure requirements if the applicant presents proof satisfactory to the Board of current licensure as an occupational therapist or occupational therapist therapy assistant in another state or the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, or Guam, provided the other jurisdiction's licensure standards are considered by the Board to be substantially equivalent to or higher than those prescribed in this Article."

SECTION 9. G.S. 90-270.73 reads as rewritten:

"§ 90-270.73. Issuance of license.

- (a) The Board shall issue a license to any individual who meets the requirements of this Article upon payment of the license fee prescribed in G.S. 90-270.77.
- (b) Any individual licensed as an occupational therapist under this Article may use the words "occupational therapist" and may use the letters "O.T." or "O.T.R./L." O.T./L.' in connection with his name or place of business.
- (c) Any individual licensed as an occupational therapist therapy assistant under this Article may use the words "occupational therapist therapy assistant" and may use

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the <u>letter_letters</u> "O.T.A." or <u>"C.O.T.A./L." O.T.A./L.</u> in connection with his name or place of business.

(d) Any individual possessing a limited permit to practice occupational therapy may use the words 'occupational therapy limited permittee' or 'occupational therapy assistant limited permittee' and may use the letters 'O.T./L.P.' or 'O.T.A./L.P.' in connection with his or her name or place of business."

SECTION 10. G.S. 90-270.74 reads as rewritten:

"§ 90-270.74. Provisional licenses. Limited permits.

The Board may grant a provisional license for a period not exceeding nine months to anylimited permit to an individual who has successfully completed the educational and field work experience—requirements and has made application to take the examination for examination but has not yet taken or received the results of the examination required under G.S. 90-270.70. A provisional license limited permit shall be valid for 120 days and shall allow the individual to practice as an occupational therapist or occupational therapist—therapy assistant under the supervision of an occupational therapist licensed in this State and shall be valid until revoked by the Board. A provisional license State. A limited permit shall expire when the individual is issued a license under G.S. 90-270.73 or if the individual is notified that he or she did not pass the examination. A limited permit is not renewable. A limited permit shall not be issued to an applicant who has failed the examination in this State or another jurisdiction.examination."

SECTION 11. G.S. 90-270.75(a) reads as rewritten:

"(a) Licenses issued under this Article shall be subject to annual renewal upon completion of such—continuing education and competency requirements as may be required by the Board, upon the payment of a renewal fee specified under G.S. 90-270.77 and in compliance with this Article, and shall expire unless renewed in the manner prescribed by the Board. The Board may provide for the late renewal of a license upon the payment of a late fee in accordance with G.S. 90-270.77, but no such late renewal may be granted more than five years after a license expires."

SECTION 12. G.S. 90-270.76 reads as rewritten:

"§ 90-270.76. Suspension, revocation and refusal to renew license.

- (a) The Board may deny or refuse to renew a license, may suspend or revoke a license, or may impose probationary conditions on a license if the licensee or applicant for licensure has engaged in any of the following conduct:
 - (1) Employment of fraud, deceit or misrepresentation in obtaining or attempting to obtain a license, or the renewal thereof; Obtaining a license by means of fraud, misrepresentation, or concealment of material facts.
 - (2) Conviction of or a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to any crime involving moral turpitude; Engaging in unprofessional conduct pursuant to rules established by the Board or violating the Code of Ethics adopted and published by the Board.
 - (3) Adjudication of insanity or incompetency, until proof of recovery from the condition can be established; Having been convicted of or pleaded

1		guilty or nolo contendere to a crime involving moral turpitude or any
2		crime which indicates that the occupational therapist or occupational
3		therapy assistant is unfit or incompetent to practice occupational
4		therapy or that the occupational therapist or occupational therapy
5		assistant has deceived or defrauded the public.
6	(4)	Engaging in any act or practice violative of any of the provisions of
7		this Article or any rule or regulation adopted by the Board hereunder,
8		or aiding, abetting or assisting any person in such a violation; violation.
9	(5)	Committing an act or acts of malpractice, gross negligence or
10		incompetence in the practice of occupational therapy;therapy.
11	(6)	Practicing as a licensed occupational therapist or occupational
12		therapist assistant without a current license; license.
13	(7)	Engaging in conduct that could result in harm or injury to the public.
14	<u>(8)</u>	Having an occupational therapy license revoked or suspended or other
15		disciplinary action taken whether in this State or another jurisdiction.
16	<u>(9)</u>	Being unfit or incompetent to practice occupational therapy by reason
17		of deliberate or negligent acts or omissions regardless of whether
18		actual injury to a patient is established.
19		-The denial, refusal to renew, suspension, revocation or imposition of
20	_	nditions upon a license may be ordered by the Board after a hearing held
21		with G.S. Chapter 150B and rules adopted by the Board. An application
22	•	the Board for reinstatement of a revoked license if the revocation has
23		or at least one year."
24		FION 13. G.S. 90-270.77 reads as rewritten:
25	"§ 90-270.77. I	
26		shall adopt and publish, in the manner established by its rules and
27		s reasonably necessary to cover the cost of services rendered for the
28	following purpo	
29	(1)	**
30		(\$10.00);twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).
31	(2)	For examination, reexamination, or issuance of a license an initial
32		license, a fee not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100.00); two hundred
33		dollars (\$200.00).
34	(3)	For the renewal of a license, a fee not to exceed fifty dollars
35	2.40	(\$50.00);one hundred dollars (\$100.00).
36	(4)	For the late renewal of a license, a fee not to exceed fifty dollars
37	/ - \	(\$50.00); one hundred dollars (\$100.00).
38	(5)	For a provisional license, limited permit, a fee not to exceed thirty-five
39		dollars (\$35.00); and fifty dollars (\$50.00).

SECTION 14. G.S. 90-270.78 reads as rewritten:

"§ 90-270.78. False representation of license prohibited.

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For copies of Board rules and licensure standards, charges not

exceeding to exceed the actual cost of printing and mailing."

- (a) It is unlawful for any person who is not licensed in accordance with this Article or whose license has been suspended, revoked or not renewed by the Board to:
 - (1) Engage in the practice of occupational therapy; therapy.
 - Orally, in writing, in print or by sign, or in any other manner, directly or by implication, represent that he <u>or she</u> is engaging in occupational therapy; ortherapy.
 - Use in connection with his <u>or her</u> name or place of business the words <u>"occupational therapist"</u> or <u>"occupational therapist assistant"; 'occupational therapist limited permittee'</u>, or 'occupational therapy <u>assistant limited permittee'</u>, or the letters "O.T.", <u>"O.T.R./L.", 'O.T./L.'</u>, "O.T.A.", <u>or "C.O.T.A./L." 'O.T.A./L.'</u>, 'O.T./L.P.', or 'O.T.A./L.P.' or any other words, letters, abbreviations or insignia indicating or implying that the person is an occupational <u>therapist ortherapist</u>, occupational <u>therapist assistant.therapy assistant limited</u> permittee.
 - (b) Any person who resides in another state or foreign country and who, by use of electronic or other medium, performs any of the acts described as the practice of occupational therapy pursuant to this Article, but is not licensed pursuant to this Article, shall be regarded as practicing occupational therapy without a North Carolina license and is subject to the provisions of this Article and appropriate regulation by the Board."

SECTION 15. Article 18D of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

"§ 90-270.80A. Civil penalties, disciplinary costs.

- (a) Authority to Assess Civil Penalties. The Board may assess a civil penalty not in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for the violation of any section of this Article or the violation of any rules adopted by the Board. The clear proceeds of any civil penalty assessed under this section shall be remitted to the Civil Penalty and Forfeiture Fund in accordance with G.S. 115C-457.2.
- (b) <u>Consideration Factors. Before imposing and assessing a civil penalty, the</u> Board shall consider the following factors:
 - (1) The nature, gravity, and persistence of the particular violation.
 - (2) The appropriateness of the imposition of a civil penalty when considered alone or in combination with other punishment.
 - (3) Whether the violation was willful and malicious.
 - (4) Any other factors that would tend to mitigate or aggravate the violations found to exist.
- (c) Schedule of Civil Penalties. The Board shall establish a schedule of civil penalties for violations of this Article and rules adopted by the Board.
- (d) Costs. The Board may assess the costs of disciplinary actions against a person found to be in violation of this Article or rules adopted by the Board."

SECTION 16. G.S. 90-270.81 reads as rewritten:

"§ 90-270.81. Persons and practices not affected.

 Nothing in this Article shall be construed to prevent or restrict:

- (1) Any person registered, certified, credentialed, or licensed to engage in another profession or occupation or any person working under the supervision of a person registered, certified, credentialed, or licensed to engage in another profession or occupation in this State from performing work incidental to the practice of that profession or occupation as long as the person does not represent himself or herself as an occupational therapist or occupational therapist assistant; therapy assistant.
- (2) Any person employed as an occupational therapist or occupational therapist therapy assistant by the government of the United States, if he <u>or she</u> provides occupational therapy solely under the direction or control of the organization by which he or she is employed;employed.
- (3) Any person pursuing a course of study leading to a degree or certificate in occupational therapy at an accredited or approved educational program if <u>such-the</u> activities and services constitute a part of a supervised course of study and if the person is designated by a title which clearly indicates his <u>or her</u> status as a student or <u>trainee</u>;trainee.
- (4) Any person fulfilling the supervised <u>field workfieldwork</u> experience required for licensure under this Article if the person is designated by a <u>title whichtitle</u>, <u>which</u> clearly indicates his <u>or her</u> status as a student or <u>trainee</u>; trainee.
- (5) Occupational therapists or occupational therapist therapy assistants licensed in other jurisdictions who are teaching consulting, teaching, or participating in special occupational therapy education projects, demonstrations or courses in this State, provided their evaluation and treatment of patients is minimal.
- (6) The practice of occupational therapy by an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant licensed in another jurisdiction who comes into this State, whether in person or by use of any electronic or other medium, on an irregular basis, to consult with a North Carolina licensed occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant or to consult with faculty at an academic facility about education and training. This shall not apply to occupational therapists or occupational therapy assistants residing in a neighboring state and regularly practicing in this State."

SECTION 17. All members serving on the North Carolina Board of Occupational Therapy on the effective date of this act shall complete their current terms. Upon completion of their current terms, the occupational therapists members, the occupational therapy assistant member, and the physician member shall be eligible to serve one additional four-year term. The Governor shall appoint a new public member to serve a four-year term. The Governor shall also appoint the counselor, educator, or school-based professional member for a four-year term pursuant to

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- 1 G.S. 90-270.68(a)(4), as enacted in Section 4 of this act, to begin October 1, 2005.
- 2 Members appointed thereafter shall serve four-year terms.
- 3 **SECTION 18.** This act is effective when it becomes law.