

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

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HOUSE BILL 777

Short Title: Exempt Isolation Float Tanks from Pool Laws. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Malone (Primary Sponsor).

For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.

Referred to: Regulatory Reform.

April 15, 2015

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT EXEMPTING ISOLATION FLOAT TANKS FROM PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL
3 LAWS AND CLARIFYING THAT LICENSED PHYSICAL THERAPISTS ARE
4 AUTHORIZED TO PRESCRIBE THE USE OF ISOLATION FLOAT TANKS IN THE
5 COURSE OF PHYSICAL THERAPY.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 130A-280 reads as rewritten:

8 "**§ 130A-280. Scope.**

9 This Article provides for the regulation of public swimming pools in the State as they may
10 affect the public health and safety. As used in this Article, the term "public swimming pool"
11 means any structure, chamber, or tank containing an artificial body of water used by the public
12 for swimming, diving, wading, recreation, or therapy, together with buildings, appurtenances,
13 and equipment used in connection with the body of water, regardless of whether a fee is
14 charged for its use. The term includes municipal, school, hotel, motel, apartment, boarding
15 house, athletic club, or other membership facility pools and spas. This Article does not apply to
16 a private pool serving a single family dwelling and used only by the residents of the dwelling
17 and their guests. This Article also does not apply to therapeutic ~~pools-pools, including isolation~~
18 float tanks, used in physical therapy programs operated by medical facilities licensed by the
19 Department or operated or owned by a licensed physical therapist, nor to therapeutic chambers
20 drained, cleaned, and refilled after each individual use."

21 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 90-270.24(4) reads as rewritten:

22 "(4) "Physical therapy" means the evaluation or treatment of any person by the
23 use of physical, chemical, or other properties of heat, light, water, electricity,
24 sound, massage, or therapeutic exercise, or other rehabilitative procedures,
25 with or without assistive devices, for the purposes of preventing, correcting,
26 or alleviating a physical or mental disability. Physical therapy includes the
27 performance of specialized tests of neuromuscular function, administration
28 of specialized therapeutic procedures, interpretation and implementation of
29 referrals from licensed medical doctors or dentists, and establishment and
30 modification of physical therapy programs for ~~patients-patients, including~~
31 programs prescribed solely at the discretion of the physical therapist that
32 involve the use of isolation float tanks. Evaluation and treatment of patients
33 may involve physical measures, methods, or procedures as are found
34 commensurate with physical therapy education and training and generally or
35 specifically authorized by regulations of the Board. Physical therapy



1 education and training shall include study of the skeletal manifestations of
2 systemic disease. Physical therapy does not include the application of
3 roentgen rays or radioactive materials, surgery, manipulation of the spine
4 unless prescribed by a physician licensed to practice medicine in North
5 Carolina, or medical diagnosis of disease."

6 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.