



## NC Board of PT Examiners (NCBPTE) Report - APTA NC Business Meeting October 11, 2024

By Kathy O. Arney, PT, MA, Executive Director

**Purpose of the Board:** The purpose of the NC Board of Physical Therapy Examiners (NCBPTE) is to regulate the practice of physical therapy in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of North Carolina. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Wednesday, December 11, 2024. North Carolina Board of PT Examiners meetings are in person. Please check the Board website for location. The public is welcome to attend in person.

### 1. Appointments to the Board:

The Governor appointed a total of three (3) members Board: two (2) physical therapists, and one (1) physical therapist assistant per NCGS Article 18E 90-270.91. for terms beginning January 1, 2024.

Current Board members will continue to serve until appointments are made by the Governor.

| Board Member            | Position            | Term Expires |
|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Leslie P. Kesler, PT**  | Chair               | 2024         |
| Jamie Miner, PT         | Secretary-Treasurer | 2025         |
| Lisa Johnston, PT       | Member              | 2026         |
| Jerri Shepard, PT       | Member              | 2026         |
| Tiffany Needham, PTA    | Member              | 2026         |
| Stephanie Bernard, PTA* | Member              | 2024         |
| Lee Diehl, MD           | Medical Doctor      | 2025         |
| Renu Kasula             | Public Member       | 2025         |

\*Indicates eligibility to serve another term, if appointed

\*\*Not eligible for reappointment

2. **Online Renewal:** All licensees are required to renew licenses annually online. Postcards will be mailed to the address on file at the Board office prior to November 1, 2024 specifying that the renewal period will be open online from November 1, 2024 until *January 31, 2025 5:00 pm EST*. Payment will require a credit card and must be received by January 31 at 5:00 p.m. for the license to be renewed. **There will be no paper renewal applications or payments.** *(The Board **strongly** recommends that licensees renew online by January 15, 2025 to ensure timely processing. The renewal fee is \$120.00 plus processing costs.)*

**3. Board Information Technology Update:**

Updates to the Board website included a personalized dashboard for licensees to access needed Board services as well as information for compact privileges and privileges for military members.

As of July 1, 2024, a Self-Service License Verification feature has been added to the home page of the Board website. State Boards are encouraged to visit the home page of the NC Board website, find the **Licensee Lookup/License Verification** button, and follow the prompts to print the required document.

The Board continues its migration of operations to the Cloud and any issues or questions can be directed to the Board via email at [PTBoard@ncptboard.org](mailto:PTBoard@ncptboard.org). IT continuously updates and enhances security to protect personal data and other information housed by the Board.

**4. Continuing Competence Requirements**

All licensees with continuing competence reporting period closing January 31, 2025, will be required to complete and record continuing competence activities prior to renewal. Access to continuing competence report is available on a licensee's personal dashboard. This report must be complete for the renewal to be accepted.

**Continuing Competence Audits:**

Annual random audits are conducted at the end of license renewals for the reporting period just closed. Typically, PT/PTA licensees must provide documentation by mail of their reported 30/20 points of activities to the Board office for audit.

**Link for licensees to review the [Board rules](#) (Scroll down to 21 NCAC 48G .0105 - .0112)**

In-person activities are not required. Continued Competence points may be obtained electronically as described below: 21 NCAC 48G .0109 CONTINUING COMPETENCE ACTIVITIES

- (a) Continuing Education activities are eligible for points as follows:
  - (1) The maximum number of points allowed during any reporting period for an interactive course offered through electronic media shall be 15.
  - (4) For registered participation in a non-interactive course offered by an approved provider by videotape, satellite transmission, webcast, DVD, or other electronic media, one

hour of participation earns one point. The maximum number of points allowed during any reporting period shall be 10.

- (8) For completion of a home study physical therapy program furnished by an approved provider, one hour of home study earns one point. The maximum number of points during any one reporting period allowed shall be 10. (These may be online/electronic/live electronic.)

**5. Board Rules and Permanent Rulemaking:** No new rules have become effective since August 2021. The Board is scheduled to submit rules for Periodic Rules Review with the Rules Review Commission in August of 2025. The Board Rules Committee will continue to review and update rules in response to public feedback, modernization of Board processes, and other relevant topics. Feedback to the Board regarding rules is welcome at any time. Board rule feedback may be submitted to: [PTBoard@ncptboard.org](mailto:PTBoard@ncptboard.org). Link to [Board rules](#).

**6. Board Newsletters:** The Board launched a monthly newsletter in August 2023 to replace the annual newsletter. Monthly newsletters are published mid-month and sent via email to licensees and other interested parties. These monthly newsletters are also posted to the Board website so they are accessible at any time to the public and licensees. Licensees receive timely updates on regulatory changes and current news affecting the physical therapy profession.

**7. Board Meeting Minutes and Recent Scope of Practice Questions:**

Approved Minutes of Quarterly and Special Board meetings are posted on the Board website under Board Information. Link for additional information on Board responses to recent [Scope of Practice questions](#).

### **Public Protection Task Force**

The Public Protection Task Force was established by the North Carolina Board of PT Examiners in June 2021 to evaluate risks and potential harms in physical therapy practice in North Carolina and make recommendations to the Board for actions that may be useful in eliminating or mitigating those risks and harms. Results of the work of this Task Force may be found on the Board website in Position Statements, Practice Resources, and in answers to scope of practice questions and newsletters. Most recent topics include:

- Vision Therapy
- 2024 Position Statement updates
- Practice Resources – Business Entities

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- PTs as DOT Medical Examiners
- Suctioning in PT
- PTAs and patient ‘assessment’
- Dry Needling
- Ethical Decision Making
- And more.

Recent postings can be found at the links below:

- [Newsletters](#)
- [Position Statements](#)
- [Practice Resources](#)
- [Scope of Practice Questions](#)
- [Latest Updates](#)

### 8. Licensing Updates

#### a. Military Members – New Federal Law

Federal Law H.R. 7939 Veterans Auto and Education Improvement Act of 2022 became effective January 5, 2023 upon signature of the President of the United States. Section 19, Portability of Professional Licenses of Members of the Uniformed Services and their Spouses, authorizes and enables states to issue a privilege to practice in the state upon submission of required documentation to military members and their spouses that have a current license in another state. Further, if the military member or spouse is licensed to practice PT in another state and is a member of the PT Compact, the eligible military member or spouse must obtain a PT Compact privilege to practice.

These provisions facilitate interstate practice through expedited methods for obtaining appropriate credentials to practice in NC. There are no prohibitions for the military member or spouse to obtain a full physical therapy license to practice in NC if they wish, with a complete application and all required documentation.

State law NCGS 93B-15.1 enables military members who have not completed a CAPTE-accredited education and without a license in another state to apply for licensure and become eligible to take the National Physical Therapy Exam.

**b. Physical Therapy Licensure Compact**

A member state of the PT Compact since 2017, North Carolina began issuing “privileges to practice” in North Carolina on July 1, 2019. The PT Compact is an agreement between member states to improve access to physical therapy services for the public by increasing the mobility of eligible physical therapy providers to work in multiple states. It also serves to enhance public protection through the submission and sharing of licensee data with a national database and conducting investigations of licensee violations across state borders. **The PT Compact privileges continue to serve as a legal and equivalent alternative to a PT license in compact participating states.** Privileges facilitate both in-person and remote and telehealth services both in the state and in other participating Compact states, ease of obtaining practice credentials for military members, their spouses, traveling and other physical therapy licensees to provide physical therapy services to the citizens of North Carolina. The PT Compact Commission has forty (40) member states, of which thirty-two (32) are issuing privileges to practice. To see participating states go to: <https://ptcompact.org/ptc-states>.

As of September 25, 2024, the current total of active compact privilege holders in NC is 737. Verification of Compact privilege holders can be made on the Board website under Licensee Look-up or at [ptcompact.org](http://ptcompact.org). More information about eligibility, obtaining a privilege in member states, or the PT Compact Commission in general is available at: [ptcompact.org](http://ptcompact.org)

In compliance with the NC PT Compact law, the Board must require FBI Criminal Background checks for all initial licensure applicants, maintain FSBPT IDs for all licensees, and share current licensure data with the commission weekly. In 2024, North Carolina continues to be represented on the PT Compact Commission by Kathy O. Arney, PT, MA, as NC delegate and Commission Chair.

**c. FBI Criminal Background Checks and Applications for Licensure**

**In 2019, by virtue of the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact law, the Board began requiring fingerprinted FBI Criminal Background Checks (CBC) for all first-time license applications in North Carolina.** The CBC results are submitted to the Board via email. This process can take a minimum 5 weeks or longer. These confidential reports must comply with the FBI requirements, and the time to complete licensure may be slowed if those results are not received timely. All applicants are encouraged to complete the fingerprint process and submission early in the application process for the most timely results.

**9. Licensee Changes of Address and contact information:** As required by rule, within **30 days** licensees should keep the Board apprised of any change in current home and work addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses. A current email address on file with the Board office decreases the chance of missing timely communications from the Board. License renewal reminder postcards will be mailed in late October to the preferred address on file.

**10. Board Office Location and Address:** NCBPTE, 8300 Health Park, Suite 233, Raleigh, NC, 27615. Website: <https://www.ncptboard.org>; Phone: (919) 490-6393 or (800) 800-8982; Email contact for questions: [PTBoard@ncptboard.org](mailto:PTBoard@ncptboard.org).

**11. Update regarding Investigations and Disciplinary Actions:**

**SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS FILED IN 2024 – YTD (Sept. 25, 2024)**

**YEAR-TO-DATE STATISTICS**

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Total Cases Reported and Investigated:                                   | 53 |
| Total advertising complaints:  | 01 |
| Total “other” complaints:  | 42 |
| Total failure to renew (by the deadline)                                 | 03 |
| Total cont. comp complaints  | 03 |
| Total Compact Privilege holder failure to complete JE in a timely manner | 06 |

**SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS RESOLVED  
Sept. 27, 2023 THROUGH Sept. 25, 2024**

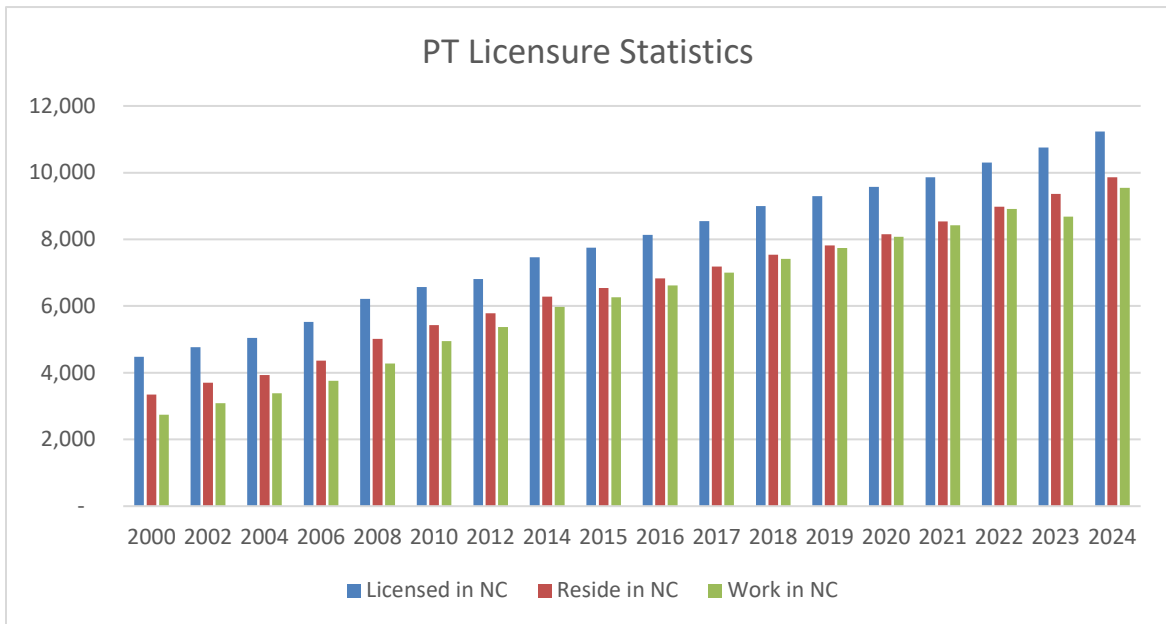
|   |   |
|---|---|
| Total Cases Dismissed:                    | 32  |
| Total Suspensions Issued:                 | 00  |
| Total Probations Issued:                  | 00  |
| Total Warnings Issued:                    | 01  |
| Total Surrender of Licenses:              | 01 (voluntary)  |
| Total Revoked                             | 00  |
| Total Renewals Denied                     | 00  |
| Total Advisory Letters written:           | 11 (including 2 letters for failure to renew by deadline) |
| Total Letters sent regarding advertising: | 00  |
| Other (invalid complaints, no name, etc.) | 20  |
| Cases still pending:                      | 34  |

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**12. Physical Therapy Licensure Statistics**

**Physical Therapist Statistics - Fall 2024  
September 25, 2024**

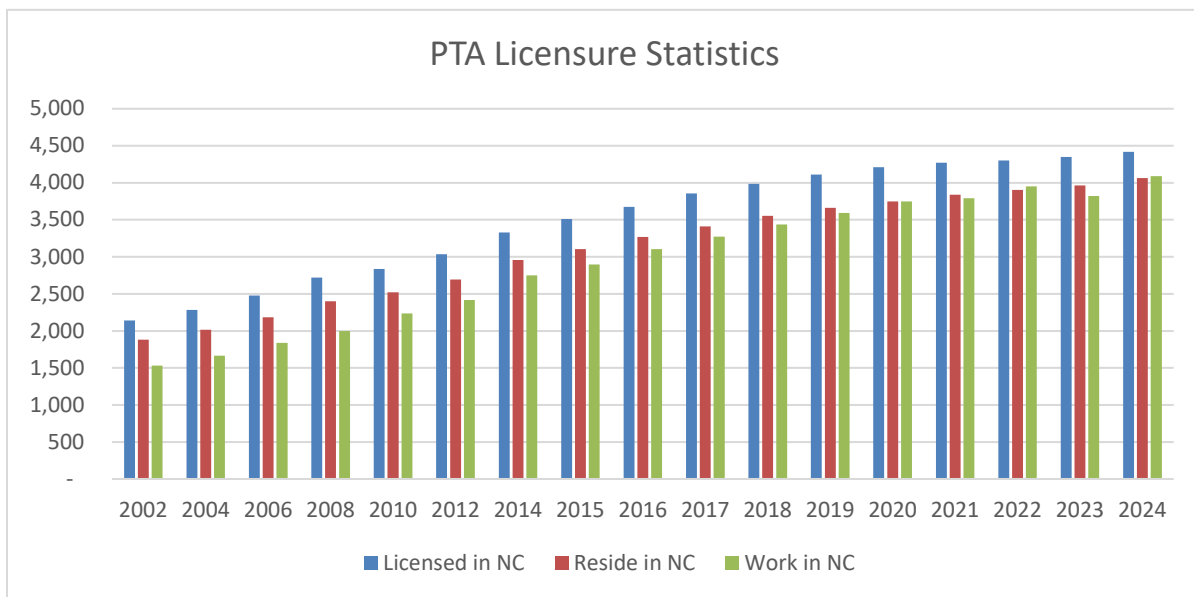
| DATE | LICENSED IN NC | RESIDE IN NC | WORK IN NC |
|------|----------------|--------------|------------|
| 1992 | 2654           | 1890         | 1682       |
| 1994 | 3207           | 2269         | 2046       |
| 1996 | 3933           | 2693         | 2365       |
| 1998 | 4688           | 3193         | 2702       |
| 2000 | 4477           | 3343         | 2738       |
| 2002 | 4767           | 3699         | 3083       |
| 2004 | 5044           | 3935         | 3384       |
| 2006 | 5524           | 4365         | 3757       |
| 2008 | 6215           | 5014         | 4278       |
| 2010 | 6574           | 5426         | 4953       |
| 2012 | 6807           | 5782         | 5371       |
| 2014 | 7461           | 6285         | 5974       |
| 2015 | 7755           | 6542         | 6266       |
| 2016 | 8134           | 6826         | 6623       |
| 2017 | 8551           | 7187         | 7003       |
| 2018 | 8998           | 7541         | 7412       |
| 2019 | 9299           | 7813         | 7745       |
| 2020 | 9574           | 8158         | 8075       |
| 2021 | 9859           | 8538         | 8418       |
| 2022 | 10302          | 8979         | 8909       |
| 2023 | 10751          | 9359         | 8682       |
| 2024 | 11234          | 9859         | 9546       |



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**Physical Therapist Assistant Statistics - Fall 2024  
September 25, 2024**

| DATE | LICENSED IN NC | RESIDE IN NC | WORK IN NC |
|------|----------------|--------------|------------|
| 1992 | 942            | 786          | 713        |
| 1994 | 1251           | 1055         | 975        |
| 1996 | 1633           | 1342         | 1163       |
| 1998 | 1968           | 1627         | 1500       |
| 2000 | 2047           | 1770         | 1358       |
| 2002 | 2141           | 1880         | 1529       |
| 2004 | 2285           | 2016         | 1665       |
| 2006 | 2479           | 2184         | 1836       |
| 2008 | 2718           | 2399         | 2000       |
| 2010 | 2836           | 2521         | 2237       |
| 2012 | 3033           | 2695         | 2419       |
| 2014 | 3327           | 2959         | 2750       |
| 2015 | 3511           | 3106         | 2898       |
| 2016 | 3674           | 3269         | 3103       |
| 2017 | 3856           | 3412         | 3271       |
| 2018 | 3985           | 3553         | 3436       |
| 2019 | 4110           | 3661         | 3591       |
| 2020 | 4210           | 3746         | 3749       |
| 2021 | 4270           | 3838         | 3793       |
| 2022 | 4300           | 3903         | 3953       |
| 2023 | 4350           | 3963         | 3822       |
| 2024 | 4420           | 4064         | 4088       |



Questions? Email [PTBoard@ncptboard.org](mailto:PTBoard@ncptboard.org)