

## TEMPORARY EXEMPTION

In accordance with the North Carolina PT Practice Act and North Carolina Session Law 2024-53, in response to Hurricane Helene, the North Carolina Board of PT Examiners is authorized to grant temporary exemptions from licensure. The temporary exemption allows licensees from other US states/jurisdictions to have temporary practice privileges in North Carolina.

**A physical therapist or physical therapist assistant who wishes to apply for temporary practice privileges must meet the following requirements:**

- 1) Have an active license, that is in good standing, to practice physical therapy in another state in the US; and**
- 2) Be ineligible for a PT Compact Privilege.** If any state in which the licensed PT or PTA is a member of the PT Compact that is issuing/accepting Compact Privileges, that licensee should visit [www.ptcompact.org](http://www.ptcompact.org) to purchase a North Carolina PT Compact Privilege.

**If eligible, is a PT or PTA automatically granted a temporary privilege to practice physical therapy under this temporary exemption legislation?**

NO. Any PT or PTA who wishes to apply for temporary privileges should visit the application page of the Board website and choose the “temporary exemption” option. Applicants are required to create an account with the Board to begin the application process.

As part of the application process, the applicant is required to submit additional information such as their FSBPT ID (link provided on application if the applicant does not know their FSBPT ID), personal contact information, and active PT/PTA license information.

Before temporary privileges are issued, the Board staff must verify each applicant’s eligibility. License verification is part of the process and may require an applicant’s assistance when the state, where the applicant holds an active PT/PTA license, does not have an electronic, self-service license verification process in place.

**What are the responsibilities of a PT/PTA who is granted temporary privileges to practice physical therapy in North Carolina?**

Once temporary privileges are granted, each privilege holder is responsible for keeping their endorsement state license active AND reviewing and complying with communications from the Board.

As with all active North Carolina licensees and privilege holders, Board rules require contact information to be updated within 30 days of change (name, addresses, email information).

### **When do temporary privileges expire?**

Temporary privileges issued in accordance with Session Law 2024-53 (related to Hurricane Helene) will expire February 28, 2025 @ 5pm EST as determined by the Board. Additional legislation may change the expiration date. As a result, it is imperative the Board have updated contact information for each temporary privilege holder so that relevant information can be communicated.

Given that one of the requirements for temporary privilege holders is an active PT/PTA license in good standing in another US state/jurisdiction, expiration of this endorsement state will result in immediate termination of North Carolina temporary privileges to practice physical therapy. If a license becomes encumbered or has disciplinary action issued against it, the temporary practice privileges will also be terminated.

### **What should temporary privileges holders do if their privileges expire but they still wish to practice physical therapy in North Carolina?**

Since temporary privilege holders are not licensed in North Carolina, they should stop practicing immediately until a North Carolina PT/PTA license is issued. For a North Carolina PT/PTA license to be issued, an application for licensure must be completed and approved by the Board. Since the process to obtain a license is separate and distinct from a temporary privilege, an applicant must complete the application in full rather than rely on information submitted to the Board to obtain a temporary privilege.

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