
By: **Delegate Valderrama**
Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2000
Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Meridian Regulatory Acupuncture - Physicians**

3 FOR the purpose of providing for the regulation and registration by the Board of
4 Physician Quality Assurance of physicians performing Meridian Regulatory
5 Acupuncture; prohibiting any person other than a physician with certain
6 training to practice Meridian Regulatory Acupuncture; providing that a
7 physician who performs Meridian Regulatory Acupuncture may do so on or off
8 the premises of the physician's office and may advertise only as permitted by
9 certain regulations; authorizing the Board to adopt certain regulations;
10 providing for disciplinary measures; requiring a certain notice to be displayed;
11 defining certain terms; and generally relating to the performance of Meridian
12 Regulatory Acupuncture by physicians.

13 BY adding to
14 Article - Health Occupations
15 Section 14-509
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (1994 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
19 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **Article - Health Occupations**

21 14-509.

22 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
23 INDICATED.

24 (2) "MERIDIAN REGULATORY ACUPUNCTURE" MEANS A MODERN,
25 SIMPLIFIED, SCIENTIFIC SYSTEM OF THERAPY THAT EMPLOYS A MICROSENSITIVE
26 DEVICE RESTORING THE BALANCE OF ENERGY IN MERIDIANS.

27 (3) "MERIDIAN" MEANS AN INVISIBLE CHANNEL OR PATHWAY:

1 (I) NAMED AFTER THE ORGAN WHOSE FUNCTION THE INVISIBLE
2 CHANNEL REGULATES; AND

3 (II) DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT THE BODY WHERE ACUPUNCTURE
4 POINTS ARE LOCATED.

5 (B) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A DENTIST PERFORMING
6 ACUPUNCTURE IN CONNECTION WITH THE PRACTICE OF DENTISTRY IF THE
7 DENTIST IS LICENSED OR OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED TO PRACTICE DENTISTRY
8 UNDER TITLE 4 OF THIS ARTICLE.

9 (C) A PHYSICIAN SHALL BE REGISTERED BY THE BOARD BEFORE THE
10 PHYSICIAN MAY PERFORM MERIDIAN REGULATORY ACUPUNCTURE IN THE STATE.

11 (D) THE BOARD SHALL REGISTER TO PERFORM MERIDIAN REGULATORY
12 ACUPUNCTURE ANY PHYSICIAN WHO MEETS THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

13 (1) SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF AT LEAST 20 HOURS OF BASIC
14 EDUCATION ON MERIDIAN REGULATORY ACUPUNCTURE IN A PROGRAM OF STUDY
15 APPROVED BY THE BOARD;

16 (2) SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF 30 HOURS OF PRACTICAL, HANDS-ON
17 TRAINING ON THE SIMPLIFIED TECHNIQUE OF MERIDIAN REGULATORY
18 ACUPUNCTURE IN A PROGRAM OF STUDY APPROVED BY THE BOARD;

19 (3) ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE;

20 (4) PAYMENT OF APPLICATION AND REGISTRATION FEES; AND

21 (5) OTHER REASONABLE CONDITIONS DETERMINED BY THE BOARD.

22 (E) A PHYSICIAN WHO IS REGISTERED UNDER THIS SECTION MAY PERFORM
23 MERIDIAN REGULATORY ACUPUNCTURE ON OR OFF THE PREMISES OF THE
24 PHYSICIAN'S OFFICE.

25 (F) A PHYSICIAN WHO PERFORMS MERIDIAN REGULATORY ACUPUNCTURE
26 MAY ADVERTISE ONLY AS PERMITTED BY THE REGULATIONS OF THE BOARD.

27 (G) THE BOARD MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS
28 OF THIS SECTION.

29 (H) SUBJECT TO THE HEARING PROVISIONS OF § 14-405 OF THIS TITLE, THE
30 BOARD, ON THE AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF A MAJORITY OF ITS FULL AUTHORIZED
31 MEMBERSHIP, MAY REPRIMAND OR PLACE A PHYSICIAN WHO PERFORMS MERIDIAN
32 REGULATORY ACUPUNCTURE ON PROBATION OR SUSPEND OR REVOKE THE
33 REGISTRATION OF A PHYSICIAN FOR:

34 (1) ANY CONDUCT PROHIBITED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THIS
35 SECTION OR PROHIBITED UNDER ANY REGULATION ADOPTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH
36 THIS SECTION;

1 (2) EXCEPT IN AN EMERGENCY LIFE-THREATENING SITUATION WHERE
2 IT IS NOT FEASIBLE OR PRACTICABLE, FAILING TO COMPLY WITH THE CENTERS FOR
3 DISEASE CONTROL GUIDELINES ON UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS; OR

4 (3) FAILING TO DISPLAY THE NOTICE REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (I)
5 OF THIS SECTION.

6 (I) IF A PHYSICIAN WHO PERFORMS MERIDIAN REGULATORY ACUPUNCTURE
7 IS ENGAGED IN THE PRIVATE PRACTICE OF MERIDIAN REGULATORY ACUPUNCTURE
8 IN THE STATE, THE PHYSICIAN WHO PERFORMS MERIDIAN REGULATORY
9 ACUPUNCTURE SHALL DISPLAY THE NOTICE DEVELOPED UNDER § 1-207 OF THIS
10 ARTICLE CONSPICUOUSLY IN EACH OFFICE WHERE THE PHYSICIAN IS ENGAGED IN
11 PRACTICE.

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
13 October 1, 2000.