

SENATE BILL 711

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CF 2lr1124

By: **Senator Beidle**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2022

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Occupations – Licensed Athletic Trainers – Dry Needling Registration**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the State Board of Physicians to register licensed athletic
4 trainers to perform dry needling; and generally relating to licensed athletic trainers
5 and dry needling.

6 BY adding to
7 Article – Health Occupations
8 Section 14–5D–10.1
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2021 Replacement Volume)

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

13 **Article – Health Occupations**

14 **14–5D–10.1.**

15 (A) IN THIS SECTION, “DRY NEEDLING” MEANS AN INTRAMUSCULAR
16 MANUAL THERAPY THAT:

17 (1) INVOLVES THE INSERTION OF ONE OR MORE SOLID NEEDLES OR A
18 MECHANICAL DEVICE INTO THE MUSCLE AND RELATED TISSUES TO EFFECT CHANGE
19 IN THE MUSCLE AND RELATED TISSUES;

20 (2) REQUIRES ONGOING EVALUATION, ASSESSMENT, AND
21 REEVALUATION OF AN IMPAIRMENT;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(3) IS USED ONLY IN PARTS OF THE BODY WITH NEUROMUSCULAR OR**
2 **MUSCULOSKELETAL LINKS TO AN IMPAIRMENT; AND**

3 **(4) IS NOT PERFORMED FOR:**

4 **(I) THE PURPOSES OF ACUPUNCTURE AS DEFINED IN § 1A-101**
5 **OF THIS ARTICLE; OR**

6 **(II) ANY PURPOSE OUTSIDE OF THE SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF**
7 **ATHLETIC TRAINERS.**

8 **(B) (1) A LICENSED ATHLETIC TRAINER SHALL BE REGISTERED BY THE**
9 **BOARD BEFORE THE LICENSED ATHLETIC TRAINER MAY PERFORM DRY NEEDLING**
10 **IN THE STATE.**

11 **(2) THE BOARD SHALL ISSUE A REGISTRATION TO PERFORM DRY**
12 **NEEDLING TO A LICENSED ATHLETIC TRAINER WHO MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF**
13 **THIS SECTION.**

14 **(C) TO APPLY FOR A REGISTRATION TO PERFORM DRY NEEDLING, A**
15 **LICENSED ATHLETIC TRAINER SHALL SUBMIT A COMPLETED EVALUATION AND**
16 **TREATMENT PROTOCOL ENTERED INTO WITH A LICENSED PHYSICIAN.**

17 **(D) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (F) OF THIS SECTION, TO**
18 **QUALIFY FOR A REGISTRATION TO PERFORM DRY NEEDLING, A LICENSED ATHLETIC**
19 **TRAINER SHALL COMPLETE AT LEAST 80 HOURS OF INSTRUCTION IN A CONTINUING**
20 **EDUCATION COURSE APPROVED BY:**

21 **(I) THE NATIONAL ATHLETIC TRAINERS' ASSOCIATION;**

22 **(II) THE BOARD OF CERTIFICATION FOR THE ATHLETIC**
23 **TRAINER; OR**

24 **(III) THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES.**

25 **(2) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (F) OF THIS SECTION, OF**
26 **THE 80 HOURS OF INSTRUCTION REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS**
27 **SUBSECTION, AT LEAST 40 HOURS OF INSTRUCTION SHALL BE IN THE FOLLOWING**
28 **COURSE CONTENT AREAS:**

29 **(I) THEORY AND APPLICATION OF DRY NEEDLING;**

1 **(II) DRY NEEDLING TECHNIQUE, INCLUDING SPINE AND**
2 **EXTREMITIES;**

3 **(III) DRY NEEDLING INDICATIONS AND CONTRAINDICATIONS;**

4 **(IV) INFECTION CONTROL, THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND**
5 **HEALTH ADMINISTRATION'S BLOODBORNE PATHOGEN PROTOCOL, AND SAFE**
6 **HANDLING OF NEEDLES;**

7 **(V) EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PROCEDURES**
8 **RELATED TO COMPLICATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH DRY NEEDLING; AND**

9 **(VI) APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION OF DRY NEEDLING.**

10 **(3) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (F) OF THIS SECTION, OF**
11 **THE 80 HOURS OF INSTRUCTION REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS**
12 **SUBSECTION, AT LEAST 40 HOURS SHALL BE PRACTICAL, HANDS-ON INSTRUCTION**
13 **IN THE APPLICATION AND TECHNIQUE OF DRY NEEDLING THAT IS COMPLETED**
14 **UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A LICENSED HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER WHO HAS:**

15 **(I) COMPLETED ALL REQUISITE COURSEWORK UNDER THIS**
16 **SUBSECTION; AND**

17 **(II) PRACTICED DRY NEEDLING FOR AT LEAST 5 YEARS.**

18 **(4) THE INSTRUCTION REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL**
19 **INCLUDE AN ASSESSMENT OF THE LICENSED ATHLETIC TRAINER'S COMPETENCY TO**
20 **PERFORM DRY NEEDLING.**

21 **(E) A LICENSED ATHLETIC TRAINER WHO COMPLETED A CONTINUING**
22 **EDUCATION COURSE BEFORE JUNE 19, 2018, SHALL BE DEEMED TO HAVE SATISFIED**
23 **THE REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED UNDER SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION IF**
24 **THE COURSE:**

25 **(1) IS SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR TO AN APPROVED CONTINUING**
26 **EDUCATION COURSE; AND**

27 **(2) IS SPONSORED BY THE BOARD OF CERTIFICATION FOR THE**
28 **ATHLETIC TRAINER.**

29 **(F) THE BOARD MAY NOT REQUIRE AN APPLICANT FOR A REGISTRATION TO**
30 **PERFORM DRY NEEDLING WHO WAS PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED TO PERFORM DRY**

1 NEEDLING UNDER A LICENSE OR REGISTRATION IN ANOTHER STATE TO COMPLETE
2 THE INSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS UNDER SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION IF:

3 (1) THE INDIVIDUAL DID NOT CEASE TO PERFORM DRY NEEDLING IN
4 THE OTHER STATE DUE TO A DISCIPLINARY ACTION TAKEN AGAINST THE
5 INDIVIDUAL IN THE OTHER STATE;

6 (2) THE INDIVIDUAL WAS NOT SUBJECT TO A PENDING DISCIPLINARY
7 INVESTIGATION AT THE TIME THE INDIVIDUAL STOPPED PERFORMING DRY
8 NEEDLING IN THE OTHER STATE;

9 (3) THE OTHER STATE HAS INSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS TO
10 PERFORM DRY NEEDLING THAT ARE SUBSTANTIVELY SIMILAR TO THE INSTRUCTION
11 REQUIREMENTS UNDER SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION; AND

12 (4) THE APPLICANT PROVIDES PROOF OF COMPLETING THE
13 SUBSTANTIVELY SIMILAR INSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS FOR AUTHORIZATION TO
14 PERFORM DRY NEEDLING IN THE OTHER STATE.

15 (G) A LICENSED ATHLETIC TRAINER WHO PERFORMS DRY NEEDLING
16 WITHOUT BEING REGISTERED BY THE BOARD IS SUBJECT TO:

17 (1) REPRIMAND BY THE BOARD;

18 (2) REVOCATION OF LICENSURE; OR

19 (3) A FINE OF \$500.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
21 October 1, 2022.