

SENATE BILL 370

J2

6lr2026
CF HB 374

By: Senator Augustine

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Acupuncture Board – Revisions**

3 FOR the purpose of defining “manual therapies” as it relates to the practice of acupuncture;
4 requiring the State Acupuncture Board to make available proof of renewal, rather
5 than issuing a renewal certificate; prohibiting a person from employing an individual
6 to practice acupuncture without a license or aiding or abetting the unauthorized
7 practice of acupuncture; and generally relating to the practice of acupuncture.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

9 Article – Health Occupations

10 Section 1A–101, 1A–302(b), 1A–306(e), and 1A–403

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

13 BY adding to

14 Article – Health Occupations

15 Section 1A–403

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

19 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **Article – Health Occupations**

21 1A–101.

22 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



4 (c) "Auricular detoxification" means an acupuncture technique involving the
5 needling of the external auricle of the human ear for the purpose of assisting a person who
6 is undergoing detoxification to remove addictive substances from the body and restoring
7 health.

8 (d) "Board" means the State Acupuncture Board.

11 (F) (1) "MANUAL THERAPIES" MEANS TREATMENT MODALITIES THAT
12 APPLY PRESSURE OR MANIPULATION USING HANDS OR ANOTHER PART OF THE
13 BODY ALONG POINTS OR MERIDIANS THAT NORMALIZE ELECTROMAGNETIC OR
14 ENERGETIC FUNCTION.

15 (2) "MANUAL THERAPIES" INCLUDE ACUPRESSURE OR OTHER
16 PRESSURE TREATMENT TECHNIQUES BASED ON EAST ASIAN MEDICAL THERAPIES.

17 [f] (G) (1) "Practice acupuncture" means the use of East Asian medical
18 therapies for the purpose of normalizing energetic physiological functions including pain
19 control, and for the promotion, maintenance, and restoration of health.

20 (2) "Practice acupuncture" includes:

21 (i) Stimulation of the body by the insertion of needles;

22 (ii) The application of moxibustion; and

(iii) Manual **THERAPIES**, mechanical **THERAPIES**, thermal **THERAPIES**, electrical **THERAPIES**, or other East Asian medical therapies only when performed in accordance with the principles of East Asian medical theories and practices.

26 [(g)] (H) "Supervision" means:

31 (2) As defined by the Board in regulations:

1 (i) Periodic direct supervision where the licensed acupuncturist is
2 present or on-site during treatment; and

5 1A-302.

6 (b) The applicant shall:

7 (1) Be of good moral character;

8 (2) Be at least 18 years old;

11 (i) If the applicant is issued a license on or before May 31, 2026:

2. Achievement of a:

26 (ii) If the applicant is issued a license on or after June 1, 2026:

B. Accredited by the Accreditation Commission for
Acupuncture and [Oriental] **HERBAL** Medicine; or

9 (4) Demonstrate the ability to communicate in the English language; and

10 (5) Meet any other qualifications that the Board establishes in regulations.

11 1A-306.

12 (e) The Board shall renew the license of and [issue a renewal certificate] **MAKE**
13 **AVAILABLE PROOF OF RENEWAL** to each licensee who meets the requirements of this
14 section.

15 1A-403.

EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS TITLE, A PERSON MAY NOT:

17 (1) EMPLOY AN INDIVIDUAL TO PRACTICE ACUPUNCTURE WITHOUT A
18 LICENSE; OR

21 [1A-403.] 1A-404.

22 (a) A person who violates [any provision] **§ 1A-401 OR § 1A-402** of this subtitle
23 is [guilty]:

24 **(1) GUILTY** of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine not
25 exceeding \$5,000 or imprisonment not exceeding 3 years or both [.

26 (b) A person who violates § 1A-401 or § 1A-402 of this subtitle is subject[; AND]

1 **(B) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES § 1A-403 OF THIS SUBTITLE IS:**

2 **(1) (I) FOR A FIRST OFFENSE, GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR AND ON**
3 **CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$5,000 OR IMPRISONMENT NOT**
4 **EXCEEDING 1 YEAR OR BOTH; AND**

5 **(II) FOR A SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE, GUILTY OF A FELONY AND ON**
6 **CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$5,000 PER DAY OR**
7 **IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 5 YEARS OR BOTH; AND**

8 **(2) SUBJECT TO A CIVIL FINE NOT TO EXCEED \$10,000 TO BE**
9 **ASSESSED BY THE BOARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE**
10 **BOARD.**

11 **(C) THE BOARD SHALL REMIT ANY PENALTY COLLECTED UNDER THIS**
12 **SECTION INTO THE GENERAL FUND OF THE STATE.**

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
14 October 1, 2026.