

# SENATE BILL 370

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6lr2026  
CF HB 374

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By: **Senator Augustine**

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 18, 2026

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

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**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 ~~1A-101.~~

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

3 (b) ~~“Acupuncture” means a form of health care based on East Asian medical~~  
 4 ~~theories of energetic physiology that describe the interrelationship of the body organs and~~  
 5 ~~functions.~~

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

10 (d) ~~“Board” means the State Acupuncture Board.~~

11 (e) ~~“License” means, unless the context requires otherwise, a license issued by the~~  
 12 ~~Board to practice acupuncture.~~

13 ~~(F) (1) “MANUAL THERAPIES” MEANS TREATMENT MODALITIES THAT~~  
 14 ~~APPLY PRESSURE OR MANIPULATION USING HANDS OR ANOTHER PART OF THE~~  
 15 ~~BODY ALONG POINTS OR MERIDIANS THAT NORMALIZE ELECTROMAGNETIC OR~~  
 16 ~~ENERGETIC FUNCTION.~~

17 ~~(2) “MANUAL THERAPIES” INCLUDE ACUPRESSURE OR OTHER~~  
 18 ~~PRESSURE TREATMENT TECHNIQUES BASED ON EAST ASIAN MEDICAL THERAPIES.~~

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

22 (2) ~~“Practice acupuncture” includes:~~

23 (i) ~~Stimulation of the body by the insertion of needles;~~

24 (ii) ~~The application of moxibustion; and~~

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

28 ~~[(g)](H) “Supervision” means:~~

29 (1) ~~A formalized professional relationship between a licensed~~  
 30 ~~acupuncturist and an individual performing auricular detoxification that provides~~  
 31 ~~evaluation and direction of the individual to adequately ensure the safety and welfare of~~  
 32 ~~clients during the course of treatment; and~~

1           ~~(2) As defined by the Board in regulations:~~

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

4                     ~~(ii) General supervision where the licensed acupuncturist is neither~~  
 5 ~~present nor on-site during treatment.~~

6 1A-302.

7           (b) The applicant shall:

8                     (1) Be of good moral character;

9                     (2) Be at least 18 years old;

10                    (3) Demonstrate competence in performing acupuncture by meeting the  
 11 following standards for education or training:

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

13                             1. Graduation from at least a master's level program or its  
 14 equivalent in acupuncture that is:

15                                     A. Approved by the Maryland Higher Education  
 16 Commission;

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

19                                     C. Found by the Board to be equivalent to a course approved  
 20 or accredited under item A or B of this item; or

21                             2. Achievement of a:

22                                     A. Diplomate in acupuncture from the National Certification  
 23 Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine; or

24                                     B. Passing score on an examination that is determined by the  
 25 Board to be equivalent to the examination given by the National Certification Commission  
 26 for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine; or

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

28                             1. Graduation from at least a master's level program or its  
 29 equivalent in acupuncture that is:

1 A. Approved by the Maryland Higher Education  
2 Commission;

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

5 C. Found by the Board to be equivalent to a course approved  
6 or accredited under item A or B of this item; and

7 2. Achievement of a passing score on an examination given  
8 by the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine or  
9 determined by the Board to be equivalent to the examination given by the National  
10 Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine;

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

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

13 1A-306.

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

17 **1A-403.**

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

19 **(1) EMPLOY AN INDIVIDUAL TO PRACTICE ACUPUNCTURE WITHOUT A**  
20 **LICENSE; OR**

21 **(2) AID OR ABET THE UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF ACUPUNCTURE**  
22 **IN VIOLATION OF § 1A-401 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

23 **[1A-403.] 1A-404.**

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

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

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

1           **(2) SUBJECT** to a civil fine not to exceed \$50,000 to be assessed by the  
2 Board in accordance with regulations adopted by the Board.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.