



Board of Physicians

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Damean W.E. Freas, D.O., Chair

2022 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO.: SB 711 – Health Occupations – Licensed Athletic Trainers – Dry
Needling Registration
COMMITTEE: Health and Government Operations
POSITION: Letter of Information

TITLE: Health Occupations – Licensed Athletic Trainers – Dry Needling
Registration

POSITION & RATIONALE:

The Maryland Board of Physicians (the Board) previously submitted a letter of opposition for Senate Bill 711 – Health Occupations – Licensed Athletic Trainers– Dry Needling Registration. The Board expressed concerns that the registration process was duplicative with existing language for approval of specialized tasks, which allows the Board to review and verify competencies, education and training for advanced skills. The Board was also concerned that language in the bill allowing “grandfathering” of athletic trainers and education exceptions for individuals with out-of-state certifications weakened the competency standards that were set elsewhere in the bill.

While the Board is not taking a position on the core issue of whether or not it is appropriate to include dry needling within the scope of practice for athletic trainers, this letter is to confirm that the amendments to SB 711 successfully address the Board’s concerns.

For more information, please contact Matthew Dudzic, Manager of Policy and Legislation, Maryland Board of Physicians, 410-764-5042.

Sincerely,

Damean W. E. Freas, D.O.
Chair, Maryland Board of Physicians

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Maryland Department of Health or the Administration.