

SENATE BILL 232

J2

(3lr0727)

ENROLLED BILL

— Finance/Health and Government Operations —

Introduced by **Senators Beidle, Gile, Hester, Jackson, ~~and Lewis Young~~
Lewis Young, and McCray**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this
_____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, _____ M.

President.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

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

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the State Board of Physicians to approve licensed athletic
4 trainers to perform dry needling as a specialized task; and generally relating to
5 licensed athletic trainers and dry needling.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
7 Article – Health Occupations
8 Section 14–5D–01(a)
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

11 BY adding to
12 Article – Health Occupations

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.

Italics indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.



1 Section 14-5D-01(e-1), 14-5D-11.4, and 14-5D-14(a)(30)
2 Annotated Code of Maryland
3 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

4 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
5 Article – Health Occupations
6 Section 14-5D-14(a)(28) and (29)
7 Annotated Code of Maryland
8 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

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

11 **Article – Health Occupations**

12 14-5D-01.

13 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

14 **(E-1) “DRY NEEDLING” MEANS AN INTRAMUSCULAR MANUAL THERAPY THAT:**

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

18 **(2) REQUIRES ONGOING EVALUATION, ASSESSMENT, AND**
19 **REEVALUATION OF AN IMPAIRMENT;**

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

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

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

25 **(II) ANY PURPOSE OUTSIDE OF THE SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF**
26 **ATHLETIC TRAINERS.**

27 14-5D-11.4.

28 **(A) A LICENSED ATHLETIC TRAINER SHALL BE APPROVED BY THE BOARD**
29 **BEFORE THE LICENSED ATHLETIC TRAINER MAY PERFORM DRY NEEDLING AS A**
30 **SPECIALIZED TASK.**

1 **(B) (1) THE BOARD SHALL ISSUE AN APPROVAL TO PERFORM DRY**
2 **NEEDLING TO A LICENSED ATHLETIC TRAINER WHO PROVIDES PROOF OF**
3 **COMPLETION OF AT LEAST 80 HOURS OF INSTRUCTION IN A CONTINUING**
4 **EDUCATION COURSE APPROVED BY:**

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

6 **(II) THE BOARD OF CERTIFICATION FOR THE ATHLETIC**
7 **TRAINER; OR**

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

9 **(2) OF THE 80 HOURS OF INSTRUCTION REQUIRED UNDER**
10 **PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, AT LEAST 40 HOURS OF INSTRUCTION SHALL**
11 **BE IN THE FOLLOWING COURSE CONTENT AREAS:**

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

13 **(II) DRY NEEDLING TECHNIQUE, INCLUDING SPINE AND**
14 **EXTREMITIES;**

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

16 **(IV) INFECTION CONTROL, THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND**
17 **HEALTH ADMINISTRATION'S BLOODBORNE PATHOGEN PROTOCOL, AND SAFE**
18 **HANDLING OF NEEDLES;**

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

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

22 **(3) ~~EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (F) OF THIS SECTION, OF~~**
23 **OF THE 80 HOURS OF INSTRUCTION REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS**
24 **SUBSECTION, AT LEAST 40 HOURS SHALL BE PRACTICAL, HANDS-ON INSTRUCTION**
25 **IN THE APPLICATION AND TECHNIQUE OF DRY NEEDLING THAT IS COMPLETED**
26 **UNDER THE SUPERVISION GUIDANCE OF A LICENSED HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER**
27 **WHO HAS:**

28 **(I) ~~COMPLETED ALL REQUISITE COURSEWORK UNDER THIS~~**
29 **SUBSECTION IS APPROVED TO PERFORM DRY NEEDLING; AND**

30 **(II) ~~PRACTICED~~ HAS PRACTICED DRY NEEDLING FOR AT LEAST**
31 **5 YEARS.**

1 **(4) THE INSTRUCTION REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL**
 2 **INCLUDE AN ASSESSMENT OF THE LICENSED ATHLETIC TRAINER’S COMPETENCY TO**
 3 **PERFORM DRY NEEDLING THAT IS PERFORMED BY THE INSTRUCTOR OF THE**
 4 **APPROVED COURSE.**

5 14–5D–14.

6 (a) Subject to the hearing provisions of § 14–405 of this title, a disciplinary panel,
 7 on the affirmative vote of a majority of a quorum of the disciplinary panel, may deny a
 8 license to any applicant, reprimand any licensee, place any licensee on probation, or
 9 suspend or revoke a license, if the applicant or licensee:

10 (28) Violates an order of the Board or a disciplinary panel, including any
 11 condition of probation; [or]

12 (29) Fails to complete a criminal history records check under § 14–308.1 of
 13 this title; **OR**

14 **(30) PERFORMS DRY NEEDLING WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF THE**
 15 **BOARD ISSUED UNDER § 14–5D–11.4 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
 17 October 1, 2023.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.