

Senate Bill 169

By: Senator Still of the 48th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to professions and  
2 businesses, so as to provide for certain education and training requirements for the  
3 performance of dry needling; to provide for applicability and exceptions; to require licensed  
4 physical therapists who perform dry needling to complete certain education and training  
5 requirements; to revise definitions; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective  
6 date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to professions and businesses,  
10 is amended in Chapter 1, relating to general provisions, by adding a new Code section to read  
11 as follows:

12 "43-1-37.

13 (a) Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this Code section, after  
14 January 1, 2026, no licensed healthcare professional authorized to perform dry needling in  
15 this state shall perform dry needling unless such professional demonstrates to the

16 satisfaction of the Georgia Composite Medical Board the successful completion of the  
17 following:

18 (1) Coursework and training in the practice of dry needling totaling 1,365 hours, which  
19 shall include:

20 (A) Instruction in medical theory, diagnosis, and treatment techniques specific to  
21 acupuncture totaling 705 hours; and

22 (B) Clinical training in dry needling, including clinical observation and clinical  
23 internship, totaling 660 hours;

24 (2) A nationally recognized clean needle technique course approved by the Georgia  
25 Composite Medical Board; and

26 (3) A minimum of 500 dry needling treatments on at least 100 different patients during  
27 a 12 month period under the direct supervision of a licensed healthcare professional who  
28 has a minimum of four years of licensed clinical practice performing dry needling.

29 (b) The requirements provided for in subsection (a) of this Code section shall not apply to:

30 (1) A licensed acupuncturist or a licensed physician who has successfully completed  
31 requirements to perform dry needling as established by the Georgia Composite Medical  
32 Board; or

33 (2) A licensed physical therapist who, prior to January 1, 2026, successfully completed  
34 requirements to perform dry needling as established by the State Board of Physical  
35 Therapy.

36 (c) The prohibition in subsection (a) of this Code section shall not prevent either of the  
37 following:

38 (1) A student from performing dry needling while enrolled in an acupuncture education  
39 program and under the direct clinical supervision of a licensed acupuncturist; or

40 (2) An individual from performing dry needling while completing requirements provided  
41 in subsection (a) of this Code section."

42 **SECTION 2.**

43 Said title is further amended in Code Section 43-33-18, relating to refusal to grant or restore  
 44 licenses, discipline of licensees, suspension, revocation, or restriction of licenses, and  
 45 immunity for violation reporters, by revising subparagraph (a)(2)(E) as follows:

46 "(E) Performed dry needling treatment interventions without consulting an individual  
 47 licensed pursuant to Article 2 or 4 of Chapter 34 of Title ~~43~~ this title and without  
 48 complying with requirements provided for under Code Section 43-1-37."

49 **SECTION 3.**

50 Said title is further amended in Code Section 43-34-62, relating to definitions relevant to  
 51 acupuncture, by revising paragraphs (1) and (4) as follows:

52 "(1) 'Acupuncture' means a modality practiced on the basis of traditional Chinese medical  
 53 principles and modern biomedical principles to stimulate underlying neural, muscular,  
 54 and connective tissues for preventive and therapeutic purposes ~~a form of therapy~~  
 55 ~~developed from traditional and modern Oriental concepts for health care that employs~~  
 56 ~~Oriental medical techniques, treatment, and adjunctive therapies for the promotion,~~  
 57 ~~maintenance, and restoration of health and the prevention of disease."~~

58 "(4) 'Practice of acupuncture' means the insertion of disposable acupuncture filiform  
 59 needles into the human body at either acupuncture points which have been clearly  
 60 mapped out over underlying bony landmarks and musculature or trigger points ~~and the~~  
 61 ~~application of moxibustion to specific areas of the human body based upon Oriental~~  
 62 ~~medical principles as a therapeutic modality. Dry needling is a technique of the practice~~  
 63 ~~of acupuncture. Adjunctive therapies within the scope of acupuncture may include~~  
 64 ~~manual, mechanical, moxibustion, herbal, thermal, electrical, and electromagnetic~~  
 65 ~~treatment and the recommendation of dietary guidelines and exercise, but only if such~~  
 66 ~~treatments, recommendations, and exercises are based on concepts of traditional Oriental~~  
 67 Chinese medicine and are directly related to acupuncture therapy."

68 **SECTION 4.**

69 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law  
70 without such approval.

71 **SECTION 5.**

72 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.