

By Senator Calatayud

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A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to dry needling; amending s. 468.203,  
F.S.; defining the terms "dry needling" and  
"myofascial trigger point"; creating s. 468.222, F.S.;  
requiring the Board of Occupational Therapy to  
establish minimum standards of practice for the  
performance of dry needling by occupational  
therapists, including specified standards; requiring  
the board, if it deems it necessary for patient  
safety, to adopt additional supervision and training  
requirements for occupational therapists to perform  
dry needling on specified areas; requiring the  
Department of Health to submit a report of specified  
information to the Legislature by a specified date;  
providing construction; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Present subsections (3) through (8) of section  
468.203, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (5)  
through (10), respectively, and new subsections (3) and (4) are  
added to that section, to read:

468.203 Definitions.—As used in this act, the term:

(3) "Dry needling" means a skilled intervention, based on  
Western medicine, that uses filiform needles and other apparatus  
or equipment to stimulate a myofascial trigger point for the  
evaluation and management of neuromusculoskeletal conditions,  
pain, movement impairments, and disabilities.

(4) "Myofascial trigger point" means an irritable section

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of soft tissue often associated with palpable nodules in taut bands of muscle fibers.

Section 2. Section 468.222, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

468.222 Dry needling.—

(1) The board shall establish minimum standards of practice for the performance of dry needling by occupational therapists, including, at a minimum, all of the following:

(a) Completion of 2 years of licensed practice as an occupational therapist.

(b) Completion of 50 hours of face-to-face continuing education from an entity accredited in accordance with s. 468.209 on the topic of dry needling. To satisfy this requirement, the instructor of the continuing education must make a determination that the occupational therapist demonstrates the requisite psychomotor skills to safely perform dry needling. The continuing education must include instruction in all of the following areas:

1. Theory of dry needling.

2. Selection and safe handling of needles and other apparatus or equipment used in dry needling, including instruction on the proper handling of biohazardous waste.

3. Indications and contraindications for dry needling.

4. Psychomotor skills needed to perform dry needling.

5. Postintervention care, including care for adverse responses, adverse incident recordkeeping, and any reporting obligations.

(c)1. Completion of at least 25 patient sessions of dry needling performed under the supervision of an occupational

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therapist who holds an active license to practice occupational therapy in any state or the District of Columbia and has actively performed dry needling for at least 1 year. The supervising occupational therapist must document that the occupational therapist under his or her supervision has met the supervision and competency requirements specified by board rule and does not need additional supervised sessions to safely perform dry needling; or

2. Completion of 25 patient sessions of dry needling performed as an occupational therapist licensed in another state or in the United States Armed Forces.

(d) A requirement that dry needling be performed only if the patient consents to the treatment and it is part of the patient's documented plan of care.

(e) A requirement prohibiting the delegation of dry needling to any person other than an occupational therapist who is authorized to engage in dry needling under this part.

(2) The board shall establish additional supervision and training requirements an occupational therapist must meet before performing dry needling on the head, neck, or torso if the board deems such requirements necessary for patient safety.

(3) The department shall, within existing resources, submit a report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on or before December 31, 2028, detailing the total number of occupational therapists licensed in this state, the number of occupational therapists who perform dry needling in this state, any increases or decreases in the number of occupational therapists in this state by geographic area, and the number of any adverse medical incidents, as

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88 defined by board rule, involving the performance of dry needling  
89 by occupational therapists in this state.

90 (4) The performance of dry needling in the practice of  
91 occupational therapy may not be construed to limit the scope of  
92 practice of other licensed health care practitioners not  
93 governed by this chapter.

94 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.