

By the Committees on Rules; and Health Policy; and Senator Trumbull

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1 A bill to be entitled  
2 An act relating to chiropractic medicine; amending s.  
3 460.403, F.S.; revising the definition of the term  
4 "practice of chiropractic medicine" to include a  
5 specified treatment; amending s. 460.406, F.S.;  
6 revising education requirements for licensure as a  
7 chiropractic physician; creating s. 460.4085, F.S.;  
8 requiring the Board of Chiropractic Medicine to  
9 establish minimum standards of practice for the  
10 performance of dry needling by chiropractic  
11 physicians, including specified education and training  
12 requirements and restrictions on such practice;  
13 authorizing the board to take specified actions at the  
14 request of a chiropractic physician; requiring the  
15 board to issue a chiropractic physician a letter  
16 certifying that he or she is authorized to perform dry  
17 needling if the chiropractic physician submits certain  
18 documentation to the board; providing an effective  
19 date.

20  
21 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

22  
23 Section 1. Subsection (9) of section 460.403, Florida  
24 Statutes, is amended to read:

25 460.403 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:

26 (9) (a) "Practice of chiropractic medicine" means a  
27 noncombative principle and practice consisting of the science,  
28 philosophy, and art of the adjustment, manipulation, and  
29 treatment of the human body in which vertebral subluxations and

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30 other malpositioned articulations and structures that are  
31 interfering with the normal generation, transmission, and  
32 expression of nerve impulse between the brain, organs, and  
33 tissue cells of the body, thereby causing disease, are adjusted,  
34 manipulated, or treated, thus restoring the normal flow of nerve  
35 impulse which produces normal function and consequent health by  
36 chiropractic physicians using specific chiropractic adjustment  
37 or manipulation techniques taught in chiropractic colleges  
38 accredited by the Council on Chiropractic Education. No person  
39 other than a licensed chiropractic physician may render  
40 chiropractic services, chiropractic adjustments, or chiropractic  
41 manipulations.

42 (b) Any chiropractic physician who has complied with the  
43 provisions of this chapter may examine, analyze, and diagnose  
44 the human living body and its diseases by the use of any  
45 physical, chemical, electrical, or thermal method; use the X ray  
46 for diagnosing; phlebotomize; and use any other general method  
47 of examination for diagnosis and analysis taught in any school  
48 of chiropractic.

49 (c)1. Chiropractic physicians may adjust, manipulate, or  
50 treat the human body by manual, mechanical, electrical, or  
51 natural methods; by the use of physical means or physiotherapy,  
52 including light, heat, water, or exercise; by the use of  
53 acupuncture; by the use of monofilament intramuscular  
54 stimulation treatment, also known as dry needling, for trigger  
55 points or myofascial pain; or by the administration of foods,  
56 food concentrates, food extracts, and items for which a  
57 prescription is not required and may apply first aid and  
58 hygiene, but chiropractic physicians are expressly prohibited

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59 from prescribing or administering to any person any legend drug  
60 except as authorized under subparagraph 2., from performing any  
61 surgery except as stated herein, or from practicing obstetrics.

62 2. Notwithstanding the prohibition against prescribing and  
63 administering legend drugs under subparagraph 1. or s.

64 499.83(2)(c), pursuant to board rule chiropractic physicians may  
65 order, store, and administer, for emergency purposes only at the  
66 chiropractic physician's office or place of business,  
67 prescription medical oxygen and may also order, store, and  
68 administer the following topical anesthetics in aerosol form:

69 a. Any solution consisting of 25 percent ethylchloride and  
70 75 percent dichlorodifluoromethane.

71 b. Any solution consisting of 15 percent  
72 dichlorodifluoromethane and 85 percent  
73 trichloromonofluoromethane.

74  
75 However, this paragraph does not authorize a chiropractic  
76 physician to prescribe medical oxygen as defined in s.  
77 499.82(10) ~~chapter 499~~.

78 (d) Chiropractic physicians shall have the privileges of  
79 services from the department's laboratories.

80 (e) The term "chiropractic medicine," "chiropractic,"  
81 "doctor of chiropractic," or "chiropractor" shall be synonymous  
82 with "chiropractic physician," and each term shall be construed  
83 to mean a practitioner of chiropractic medicine as the same has  
84 been defined herein. Chiropractic physicians may analyze and  
85 diagnose the physical conditions of the human body to determine  
86 the abnormal functions of the human organism and to determine  
87 such functions as are abnormally expressed and the cause of such

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88 abnormal expression.

89 (f) Any chiropractic physician who has complied with the  
90 provisions of this chapter is authorized to analyze and diagnose  
91 abnormal bodily functions and to adjust the physical  
92 representative of the primary cause of disease as is herein  
93 defined and provided. As an incident to the care of the sick,  
94 chiropractic physicians may advise and instruct patients in all  
95 matters pertaining to hygiene and sanitary measures as taught  
96 and approved by recognized chiropractic schools and colleges. A  
97 chiropractic physician may not use acupuncture until certified  
98 by the board. Certification shall be granted to chiropractic  
99 physicians who have satisfactorily completed the required  
100 coursework in acupuncture and after successful passage of an  
101 appropriate examination as administered by the department. The  
102 required coursework shall have been provided by a college or  
103 university which is recognized by an accrediting agency approved  
104 by the United States Department of Education.

105 Section 2. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of section  
106 460.406, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

107 460.406 Licensure by examination.—

108 (1) Any person desiring to be licensed as a chiropractic  
109 physician must apply to the department to take the licensure  
110 examination. There shall be an application fee set by the board  
111 not to exceed \$100 which shall be nonrefundable. There shall  
112 also be an examination fee not to exceed \$500 plus the actual  
113 per applicant cost to the department for purchase of portions of  
114 the examination from the National Board of Chiropractic  
115 Examiners or a similar national organization, which may be  
116 refundable if the applicant is found ineligible to take the

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117 examination. The department shall examine each applicant whom  
118 the board certifies has met all of the following criteria:

119 (d)1. For an applicant who has matriculated in a  
120 chiropractic college before July 2, 1990, completed at least 2  
121 years of residence college work, consisting of a minimum of one-  
122 half the work acceptable for a bachelor's degree granted on the  
123 basis of a 4-year period of study, in a college or university  
124 accredited by an institutional accrediting agency recognized and  
125 approved by the United States Department of Education. However,  
126 before being certified by the board to sit for the examination,  
127 each applicant who has matriculated in a chiropractic college  
128 after July 1, 1990, must have been granted a bachelor's degree,  
129 based upon 4 academic years of study, by a college or university  
130 accredited by an institutional accrediting agency that is a  
131 member of the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary  
132 Accreditation or have produced a credentials evaluation report  
133 from a board-approved organization that deems the applicant's  
134 education equivalent to a bachelor's degree.

135 2. Effective July 1, 2000, completed, before matriculation  
136 in a chiropractic college, at least 3 years of residence college  
137 work, consisting of a minimum of 90 semester hours leading to a  
138 bachelor's degree in a liberal arts college or university  
139 accredited by an institutional accrediting agency recognized and  
140 approved by the United States Department of Education or have  
141 produced a credentials evaluation report from a board-approved  
142 organization that deems the applicant's education equivalent to  
143 a bachelor's degree. However, before being certified by the  
144 board to sit for the examination, each applicant who has  
145 matriculated in a chiropractic college after July 1, 2000, must

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146 have been granted a bachelor's degree from an institution  
147 holding accreditation for that degree from an institutional  
148 accrediting agency that is recognized by the United States  
149 Department of Education or have produced a credentials  
150 evaluation report from a board-approved organization that deems  
151 the applicant's education equivalent to a bachelor's degree. The  
152 applicant's chiropractic degree must consist of credits earned  
153 in the chiropractic program and may not include academic credit  
154 for courses from the bachelor's degree.

155  
156 The board may require an applicant who graduated from an  
157 institution accredited by the Council on Chiropractic Education  
158 more than 10 years before the date of application to the board  
159 to take the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners Special  
160 Purposes Examination for Chiropractic, or its equivalent, as  
161 determined by the board. The board shall establish by rule a  
162 passing score.

163 Section 3. Section 460.4085, Florida Statutes, is created  
164 to read:

165 460.4085 Performance of dry needling by chiropractic  
166 physicians.-

167 (1) The board shall establish minimum standards of practice  
168 for the performance of dry needling by chiropractic physicians,  
169 including, at a minimum, all of the following:

170 (a) Completion of 40 hours of in-person continuing  
171 education on the topic of dry needling for chiropractic  
172 physicians not certified in chiropractic acupuncture and 24  
173 hours of such in-person continuing education for chiropractic  
174 physicians certified in chiropractic acupuncture, and passage of

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175 a written and practical examination. Online or distance-based  
176 courses do not qualify as approved hours to meet the dry  
177 needling certification requirements.

178 1. Course content must be approved by one or more of the  
179 following entities before a chiropractic physician may take such  
180 course for purposes of meeting the continuing education  
181 requirements of this paragraph:

182 a. An entity accredited in accordance with s. 460.408.

183 b. The board.

184 c. The American Chiropractic Association.

185 d. The International Chiropractic Association.

186 e. Providers of Approved Continuing Education.

187 f. The American Medical Association.

188 g. The American Osteopathic Association.

189 2. The course instructor must be a licensed chiropractic  
190 physician, allopathic or osteopathic physician, or physical  
191 therapist holding a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree who has  
192 practiced dry needling for at least 5 years, either by  
193 instructing dry needling coursework at an accredited institution  
194 of higher education or treating patients using dry needling  
195 treatment in a professional office setting.

196 3. The continuing education must include instruction in all  
197 of the following areas:

198 a. Theory of dry needling.

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

202 c. Indications and contraindications for dry needling.

203 d. Psychomotor skills needed to perform dry needling.

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204 e. Postintervention care, including adverse responses,  
205 adverse event recordkeeping, and any reporting obligations.

206 (b) Completion of at least 10 patient sessions of dry  
207 needling performed under the supervision of a licensed  
208 chiropractic physician, allopathic or osteopathic physician, or  
209 physical therapist holding a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree  
210 who has actively performed dry needling for at least 1 year. A  
211 chiropractic physician must provide satisfactory documentation  
212 to the board demonstrating that he or she has met the  
213 supervision and competency requirements of this paragraph and  
214 does not need additional supervised sessions to perform dry  
215 needling.

216 (c) A requirement that dry needling may not be performed  
217 without patient consent and education on the risks and adverse  
218 events that could occur. Such patient consent and education must  
219 be included as part of the patient's documented plan of care.

220 (d) A requirement that dry needling may not be delegated to  
221 any person other than a chiropractic physician who is authorized  
222 to engage in dry needling under this chapter.

223 (2) At the request of a licensee, the board may do any of  
224 the following:

225 (a) Review coursework completed before July 1, 2024, to be  
226 approved to satisfy the coursework requirements of this section.

227 (b) Waive some or all of the hours or requirements of  
228 subsection (1) if the licensee presents satisfactory proof of  
229 completing coursework that constitutes adequate training of dry  
230 needling or of the components of education and training required  
231 for dry needling.

232 (c) Determine whether the licensee has received adequate



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233 training to be eligible to perform dry needling.

234 (3) When a chiropractic physician submits documentation to  
235 the board verifying completion of the required hours of  
236 education and training under this section, the board must issue  
237 the chiropractic physician a letter certifying that he or she is  
238 authorized to practice dry needling under this chapter.

239 Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.