

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to dry needling by occupational
3 therapists; amending s. 468.203, F.S.; defining the
4 terms "dry needling" and "myofascial trigger point";
5 creating s. 468.227, F.S.; requiring the Board of
6 Occupational Therapy Practice to establish minimum
7 standards of practice for the performance of dry
8 needling by occupational therapists; providing
9 performance requirements; requiring the board to
10 establish additional supervision and training
11 requirements; requiring the Department of Health to
12 submit a specified report to the Legislature by a
13 specified date; providing construction; providing an
14 effective date.

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

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18 **Section 1. Subsections (3) through (8) of section 468.203,**
19 **Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (5) through**
20 **(10), respectively, and new subsections (3) and (4) are added to**
21 **that section, to read:**

22 468.203 Definitions.—As used in this act, the term:

23 (3) "Dry needling" has the same meaning as in s.
24 486.021(12) .

25 (4) "Myofascial trigger point" has the same meaning as in

26 s. 486.021(13).

27 **Section 2. Section 468.227, Florida Statutes, is created**
28 **to read:**

29 468.227 Occupational therapist; performance of dry
30 needling.—

31 (1) The board shall establish minimum standards of
32 practice for the performance of dry needling by occupational
33 therapists, including, but not limited to, all of the following:

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

36 (b) Completion of 50 hours of face-to-face continuing
37 education from an entity approved by the board on the topic of
38 dry needling, which must include a determination by the
39 instructor that the occupational therapist demonstrates the
40 requisite psychomotor skills needed to safely perform dry
41 needling. The continuing education must include instruction in
42 all of the following areas:

43 1. Theory of dry needling.

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

47 3. Indications and contraindications for dry needling.

48 4. Psychomotor skills needed to safely perform dry
49 needling.

50 5. Postintervention care, including adverse responses,

51 adverse event recordkeeping, and any reporting obligations.

52 (c)1. Completion of at least 25 patient sessions of dry
53 needling performed under the supervision of an occupational
54 therapist, physical therapist, or chiropractic physician who
55 holds an active license to practice in any state or the District
56 of Columbia, who has actively performed dry needling for at
57 least 1 year, and who documents that he or she has met the
58 supervision and competency requirements and needs no additional
59 supervised sessions to perform dry needling; or

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

63 (d) A requirement that dry needling may not be performed
64 without patient consent and must be a part of a patient's
65 documented plan of care.

66 (e) A requirement that dry needling may not be delegated
67 to any person other than an occupational therapist who is
68 authorized to engage in dry needling under this chapter.

69 (2) The board shall establish additional supervision and
70 training requirements before the performance of dry needling of
71 the head and neck or torso by an occupational therapist if the
72 board deems it necessary for patient safety.

73 (3) The Department of Health shall, within existing
74 resources, submit a report to the President of the Senate and
75 the Speaker of the House of Representatives on or before

76 December 31, 2028, detailing the number of occupational
77 therapists in the state, the number of occupational therapists
78 in the state performing dry needling, any increases or decreases
79 in the number of occupational therapists in the state by
80 geographic area, and any adverse medical incidents as defined by
81 the board involving occupational therapists in the state
82 performing dry needling.

83 (4) The performance of dry needling in the practice of
84 occupational therapy does not limit the scope of practice of
85 other licensed health care practitioners not governed by this
86 chapter.

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