

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

REVISED

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted
on Second Reading in the Second House*

LLS NO. 26-0262.01 Eden Rolland x2373

HOUSE BILL 26-1042

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Feret and Bradley, Barron, Brooks, Clifford, Duran, Garcia Sander, Goldstein, Gonzalez R., Lieder, Nguyen, Rutinel, Stewart K., Story, Woodrow

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Ball,

House Committees
Health & Human Services

Senate Committees
Health & Human Services

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING DRY NEEDLING BY OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

On and after September 1, 2027, the bill authorizes an occupational therapist to perform dry needling if the occupational therapist:

- Has the knowledge, skill, ability, and documented competency to perform the act;
- Has successfully completed a dry needling course of study that meets supervisorial, educational, and clinical prerequisites to be established by rule; and

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

SENATE
2nd Reading Unamended
March 16, 2026

HOUSE
3rd Reading Unamended
February 18, 2026

HOUSE
Amended 2nd Reading
February 17, 2026

- Obtains a written informed consent from each patient for dry needling, including information concerning the potential benefits and risks of dry needling.

The director of the division of professions and occupations within the department of regulatory agencies is required to adopt rules to implement the bill.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 12-270-109.5** as
3 follows:

4 **12-270-109.5. Dry needling - rules.**

5 (1) ON AND AFTER SEPTEMBER 1, 2027, AN OCCUPATIONAL
6 THERAPIST MAY PERFORM DRY NEEDLING IF THE OCCUPATIONAL
7 THERAPIST:

8 (a) HAS THE KNOWLEDGE, SKILL, ABILITY, AND DOCUMENTED
9 COMPETENCY TO PERFORM THE ACT;

10 (b) HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED A DRY NEEDLING COURSE OF
11 STUDY THAT MEETS THE SUPERVISORIAL, EDUCATIONAL, AND CLINICAL
12 PREREQUISITES ESTABLISHED BY RULE PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2) OF
13 THIS SECTION; AND

14 (c) OBTAINS A WRITTEN INFORMED CONSENT FROM EACH PATIENT
15 FOR DRY NEEDLING, INCLUDING:

16 (I) INFORMATION CONCERNING THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS AND
17 RISKS OF DRY NEEDLING; AND

18 (II) A STATEMENT THAT THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST
19 PERFORMING DRY NEEDLING IS NOT AN ACUPUNCTURIST.

20 (2) ON OR BEFORE JUNE 1, 2027, THE DIRECTOR SHALL ADOPT
21 RULES TO ESTABLISH THE REQUIREMENTS FOR AN OCCUPATIONAL
22 THERAPIST TO PERFORM DRY NEEDLING IN ORDER TO ENSURE ADEQUATE

1 PROTECTION OF THE PUBLIC. AT A MINIMUM, THE RULES MUST ESTABLISH
2 REQUIREMENTS THAT ARE EQUIVALENT TO THE REQUIREMENTS
3 ESTABLISHED IN RULES ADOPTED BY THE STATE PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD
4 PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-285-116 (5)(b) AUTHORIZING A PHYSICAL
5 THERAPIST TO PERFORM DRY NEEDLING. PRIOR TO ADOPTING THE RULES,
6 THE DIRECTOR SHALL SEEK INPUT FROM THE COLORADO MEDICAL BOARD
7 CREATED IN SECTION 12-240-105 (1).

8 (3) NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 12-200-103 (5), THE
9 PERFORMANCE OF DRY NEEDLING BY AN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST IN
10 ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION IS NOT THE PRACTICE OF ACUPUNCTURE
11 AND IS NOT A VIOLATION OF SECTION 12-200-108.

12 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
13 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
14 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
15 12, 2026, if adjournment sine die is on May 13, 2026); except that, if a
16 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
17 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
18 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
19 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
20 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
21 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.