

HB 404 / SB 303- State Board of Acupuncture Practice of Acupuncture - Definition and Education Requirements

APTA of Maryland has submitted an amendment to the Acupuncture Board to ensure PTs are not prohibited to perform Dry Needling, laser therapy, or therapeutic exercise. The language in this bill leaves the above issues at risk of interpretation and legal dispute based on precedent in other states.

Talking Points

- ◆ In 1984 physical therapists were authorized to perform dry needling, 10 years before acupuncturists were first licensed in Maryland.
- ◆ In 2010, because of a challenge by acupuncture to physical therapy's right to perform dry needling, the Attorney General ruled that dry needling is within the scope of physical therapy. The opinion noted that The Maryland Acupuncture Act does not limit a physical therapist's ability to perform dry needling.
- ◆ Maryland has the most rigorous educational and training requirements for Dry Needling by PTs in the country (80 hours of didactic and hands on training).
- ◆ The practice of acupuncture by acupuncturists and the performance of dry needling by physical therapists differ.
- ◆ The performance of modern dry needling by physical therapists is based on western neuroanatomy and modern scientific study of the musculoskeletal and nervous system. Physical therapists that perform dry needling do not use traditional acupuncture theories or acupuncture terminology. It is not advertised as acupuncture nor is it tied to the roots of the practice of acupuncture.

HB 404 hearing in the House Health and Government Operations Committee
Tuesday, February 12 at 1:00 PM.

SB 303 hearing in the Senate Education, Health & Environment Affairs Committee
Wednesday, February 13 at 1:00 PM.

