

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2070 Session of
2025

INTRODUCED BY SCHLEGEL, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ AND ROWE,
NOVEMBER 25, 2025

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE,
DECEMBER 3, 2025

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of October 10, 1975 (P.L.383, No.110), entitled
2 "An act relating to the practice of physical therapy,"
3 further providing for definitions, for training and license
4 required and exceptions and for physical therapist assistant,
5 education and examination, scope of duties and certification.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. The definition of "physical therapy" in section 2
9 of the act of October 10, 1975 (P.L.383, No.110), known as the
10 Physical Therapy Practice Act, is amended and the section is
11 amended by adding a definition to read:

12 Section 2. Definitions.--The following definitions shall
13 apply, when used in this act, unless otherwise expressed
14 therein:

15 * * *

16 "Dry needling" shall mean a physical intervention that uses a
17 filiform needle to stimulate trigger points and diagnose and
18 treat neuromuscular pain and functional movement deficits. The
19 term does not include the stimulation of auricular or any other

1 points based upon areas of oriental medicine or the practice of
2 acupuncture under the act of February 14, 1986 (P.L.2, No.2),
3 known as the "Acupuncture Licensure Act."

4 * * *

5 "Physical therapy" means any of the following:

6 (1) The evaluation, examination and testing of individuals
7 with mechanical, physiological and developmental impairments,
8 functional limitations and disabilities, other health-related or
9 movement-related conditions, performed to determine a diagnosis,
10 prognosis and plan of treatment intervention within the scope of
11 this act or to assess the ongoing effects of intervention.

12 (2) The performance of tests and measurements as an aid in
13 diagnosis or evaluation of function and the treatment of the
14 individual through the utilization of the effective properties
15 of physical measures such as mechanical stimulation, dry
16 needling, heat, cold, light, air, water, electricity, sound,
17 massage or mobilization-manual therapy.

18 (3) The use of therapeutic exercises and rehabilitative
19 procedures, including training in functional activities, with or
20 without the utilization of assistive devices, for the purpose of
21 limiting or preventing disability and alleviating or correcting
22 any physical or mental conditions.

23 (4) Reducing the risk of injury, impairment, functional
24 limitation and disability, including the promotion and
25 maintenance of fitness, health and wellness in populations of
26 all ages as well as engaging in administration, consultation,
27 education and research.

28 * * *

29 Section 2. Section 4 of the act is amended by adding a
30 subsection to read:

1 Section 4. Training and License Required; Exceptions.--* * *

2 (a.1) A licensed physical therapist may only perform dry
3 needling upon the successful completion of a dry needling
4 certification program approved by the board.

5 * * *

6 Section 3. Section 9.1(c) introductory paragraph of the act

7 is amended to read:

8 Section 9.1. Physical Therapist Assistant; Education and

9 Examination; Scope of Duties; Certification.--* * *

10 (c) A physical therapist assistant while assisting a

11 licensed physical therapist in the practice of physical therapy

12 shall only perform patient-related physical therapy acts and

13 services that are assigned or delegated by and under the

14 supervision of a licensed physical therapist. Such acts and

15 services of a physical therapist assistant shall not include

16 evaluation, testing, dry needling, interpretation, planning or

17 modification of patient programs. For purposes of this section

18 the term "supervision" means as follows:

19 * * *

20 Section 4. This act shall take effect in 60 days.