

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

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

\* \* \*

"Physical therapy" means any of the following:

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

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

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

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

\* \* \*

Section 2. Section 4 of the act is amended by adding a 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.