



Rep. Theresa Mah

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1 AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 898

2 AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_. Amend Senate Bill 898 by replacing  
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 5. The Illinois Insurance Code is amended by  
5 adding Section 356z.25 as follows:

6 (215 ILCS 5/356z.25 new)

7 Sec. 356z.25. Dry needling by a physical therapist. A group  
8 or individual policy of accident and health insurance or a  
9 qualified health plan offered through the health insurance  
10 market place is not required to provide coverage for dry  
11 needling performed by a physical therapist as described in  
12 Section 1.5 of the Illinois Physical Therapy Act.

13 Section 10. The Illinois Physical Therapy Act is amended by  
14 changing Section 1 and by adding Section 1.5 as follows:

1 (225 ILCS 90/1) (from Ch. 111, par. 4251)

2 (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2026)

3 Sec. 1. Definitions. As used in this Act:

4 (1) "Physical therapy" means all of the following:

5 (A) Examining, evaluating, and testing individuals who  
6 may have mechanical, physiological, or developmental  
7 impairments, functional limitations, disabilities, or  
8 other health and movement-related conditions, classifying  
9 these disorders, determining a rehabilitation prognosis  
10 and plan of therapeutic intervention, and assessing the  
11 on-going effects of the interventions.

12 (B) Alleviating impairments, functional limitations,  
13 or disabilities by designing, implementing, and modifying  
14 therapeutic interventions that may include, but are not  
15 limited to, the evaluation or treatment of a person through  
16 the use of the effective properties of physical measures  
17 and heat, cold, light, water, radiant energy, electricity,  
18 sound, and air and use of therapeutic massage, therapeutic  
19 exercise, mobilization, and rehabilitative procedures,  
20 with or without assistive devices, for the purposes of  
21 preventing, correcting, or alleviating a physical or  
22 mental impairment, functional limitation, or disability.

23 (C) Reducing the risk of injury, impairment,  
24 functional limitation, or disability, including the  
25 promotion and maintenance of fitness, health, and  
26 wellness.

1 (D) Engaging in administration, consultation,  
2 education, and research.

3 "Physical therapy" includes, but is not limited to: (a)  
4 performance of specialized tests and measurements, (b)  
5 administration of specialized treatment procedures, (c)  
6 interpretation of referrals from physicians, dentists,  
7 advanced practice nurses, physician assistants, and podiatric  
8 physicians, (d) establishment, and modification of physical  
9 therapy treatment programs, (e) administration of topical  
10 medication used in generally accepted physical therapy  
11 procedures when such medication is either prescribed by the  
12 patient's physician, licensed to practice medicine in all its  
13 branches, the patient's physician licensed to practice  
14 podiatric medicine, the patient's advanced practice nurse, the  
15 patient's physician assistant, or the patient's dentist or used  
16 following the physician's orders or written instructions, ~~and~~  
17 (f) supervision or teaching of physical therapy, and (g) dry  
18 needling in accordance with Section 1.5. Physical therapy does  
19 not include radiology, electrosurgery, chiropractic technique  
20 or determination of a differential diagnosis; provided,  
21 however, the limitation on determining a differential  
22 diagnosis shall not in any manner limit a physical therapist  
23 licensed under this Act from performing an evaluation pursuant  
24 to such license. Nothing in this Section shall limit a physical  
25 therapist from employing appropriate physical therapy  
26 techniques that he or she is educated and licensed to perform.

1 A physical therapist shall refer to a licensed physician,  
2 advanced practice nurse, physician assistant, dentist,  
3 podiatric physician, other physical therapist, or other health  
4 care provider any patient whose medical condition should, at  
5 the time of evaluation or treatment, be determined to be beyond  
6 the scope of practice of the physical therapist.

7 (2) "Physical therapist" means a person who practices  
8 physical therapy and who has met all requirements as provided  
9 in this Act.

10 (3) "Department" means the Department of Professional  
11 Regulation.

12 (4) "Director" means the Director of Professional  
13 Regulation.

14 (5) "Board" means the Physical Therapy Licensing and  
15 Disciplinary Board approved by the Director.

16 (6) "Referral" means a written or oral authorization for  
17 physical therapy services for a patient by a physician,  
18 dentist, advanced practice nurse, physician assistant, or  
19 podiatric physician who maintains medical supervision of the  
20 patient and makes a diagnosis or verifies that the patient's  
21 condition is such that it may be treated by a physical  
22 therapist.

23 (7) "Documented current and relevant diagnosis" for the  
24 purpose of this Act means a diagnosis, substantiated by  
25 signature or oral verification of a physician, dentist,  
26 advanced practice nurse, physician assistant, or podiatric

1 physician, that a patient's condition is such that it may be  
2 treated by physical therapy as defined in this Act, which  
3 diagnosis shall remain in effect until changed by the  
4 physician, dentist, advanced practice nurse, physician  
5 assistant, or podiatric physician.

6 (8) "State" includes:

7 (a) the states of the United States of America;

8 (b) the District of Columbia; and

9 (c) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

10 (9) "Physical therapist assistant" means a person licensed  
11 to assist a physical therapist and who has met all requirements  
12 as provided in this Act and who works under the supervision of  
13 a licensed physical therapist to assist in implementing the  
14 physical therapy treatment program as established by the  
15 licensed physical therapist. The patient care activities  
16 provided by the physical therapist assistant shall not include  
17 the interpretation of referrals, evaluation procedures, or the  
18 planning or major modification of patient programs.

19 (10) "Physical therapy aide" means a person who has  
20 received on the job training, specific to the facility in which  
21 he is employed.

22 (11) "Advanced practice nurse" means a person licensed as  
23 an advanced practice nurse under the Nurse Practice Act.

24 (12) "Physician assistant" means a person licensed under  
25 the Physician Assistant Practice Act of 1987.

26 (Source: P.A. 98-214, eff. 8-9-13; 99-173, eff. 7-29-15;

1 99-229, eff. 8-3-15; 99-642, eff. 7-28-16; revised 10-27-16.)

2 (225 ILCS 90/1.5 new)

3 Sec. 1.5. Dry needling.

4 (a) For the purpose of this Act, "dry needling", also known  
5 as intramuscular therapy, means an advanced needling skill or  
6 technique limited to the treatment of myofascial pain, using a  
7 single use, single insertion, sterile filiform needle (without  
8 the use of heat, cold, or any other added modality or  
9 medication), that is inserted into the skin or underlying  
10 tissues to stimulate trigger points. Dry needling may apply  
11 theory based only upon Western medical concepts, requires an  
12 examination and diagnosis, and treats specific anatomic  
13 entities selected according to physical signs. Dry needling  
14 does not include the stimulation of auricular points,  
15 utilization of distal points or non-local points, needle  
16 retention, application of retained electric stimulation leads,  
17 or the teaching or application of other acupuncture theory.

18 (b) A physical therapist licensed under this Act may only  
19 perform dry needling under the following conditions as  
20 determined by the Department by rule:

21 (1) Prior to completion of the education under  
22 paragraph (2) of this subsection, successful completion of  
23 50 hours of instruction in the following areas:

24 (A) the musculoskeletal and neuromuscular system;

25 (B) the anatomical basis of pain mechanisms,

1           chronic pain, and referred pain;

2                   (C) myofascial trigger point theory; and

3                   (D) universal precautions.

4           (2) Completion of at least 30 hours of didactic course  
5 work specific to dry needling.

6           (3) Successful completion of at least 54 practicum  
7 hours in dry needling course work approved by the  
8 Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy or its  
9 successor (or substantial equivalent), as determined by  
10 the Department. Each instructional course shall specify  
11 what anatomical regions are included in the instruction and  
12 describe whether the course offers introductory or  
13 advanced instruction in dry needling. Each instruction  
14 course shall include the following areas:

15                   (A) dry needling technique;

16                   (B) dry needling indications and  
17 contraindications;

18                   (C) documentation of dry needling;

19                   (D) management of adverse effects;

20                   (E) practical psychomotor competency; and

21                   (F) the Occupational Safety and Health  
22 Administration's Bloodborne Pathogens standard.

23           Postgraduate classes qualifying for completion of the  
24 mandated 54 hours of dry needling shall be in one or more  
25 modules, with the initial module being no fewer than 27  
26 hours, and therapists shall complete at least 54 hours in

1       no more than 12 months.

2           (4) Completion of at least 200 patient treatment  
3       sessions under supervision as determined by the Department  
4       by rule.

5           (5) Successful completion of a competency examination  
6       as approved by the Department.

7       Each licensee is responsible for maintaining records of the  
8       completion of the requirements of this subsection (b) and shall  
9       be prepared to produce such records upon request by the  
10       Department.

11       (c) A newly-licensed physical therapist shall not practice  
12       dry needling for at least one year from the date of initial  
13       licensure unless the practitioner can demonstrate compliance  
14       with subsection (b) through his or her pre-licensure  
15       educational coursework.

16       (d) Dry needling may only be performed by a licensed  
17       physical therapist and may not be delegated to a physical  
18       therapist assistant or support personnel.

19       (e) A physical therapist shall not advertise, describe to  
20       patients or the public, or otherwise represent that dry  
21       needling is acupuncture, nor shall he or she represent that he  
22       or she practices acupuncture unless separately licensed under  
23       the Acupuncture Practice Act.

24       Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
25       becoming law."