SENATE DOCKET, NO. 2964 FILED ON: 6/9/2025

SENATE . . . . . No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Nick Collins

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to safer treatment of acupuncture.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Nick Collins	*First Suffolk*

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SENATE . . . . . No.

By Mr. Collins, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Nick Collins for legislation relative to the safer treatment of acupuncture. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)

An Act relative to safer treatment of acupuncture.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 148 of Chapter 112 of the General Laws is amended by adding the following definition after the definition of "acupuncture intern":-

"Dry needling" or "Trigger Point Acupuncture", the practice of intramuscular therapy, means an advanced needling skill or technique limited to the treatment of myofascial pain, using a single use, single insertion, sterile filiform needle (without the use of heat, cold, or any other added modality or medication), that is inserted into the skin or underlying tissues to stimulate trigger points. Dry needling may apply theory based only upon Western medical concepts, requires an examination and diagnosis, and treats specific anatomic entities selected according to physical signs. Trigger point Acupuncture/Dry needling does not include the stimulation of auricular points, utilization of distal points or non-local points, needle retention, application of retained electric stimulation leads, or the teaching or application of other acupuncture theory.

12 SECTION 2. Chapter 112 of the General Laws shall be amended by adding the following
13 new section after section 152:-

14 Section 152A. Licensed health care professionals wishing to practice “dry needling” or
15 “trigger point acupuncture” as defined in Section 148 of Chapter 112 of the General Laws shall
16 meet the following criteria:

17 (a) Practitioners must have completed at least two years of post-graduate, professional
18 experience prior to the addition of trigger point acupuncture/dry needling.

19 (b) Five hundred didactic hours and 150 clinical hours total shall be required training for
20 the practice of dry needling/trigger point acupuncture.

21 (c) Proof of education shall be supplied by the practitioner upon request by the
22 department of public health.

23 (d) Education must be in-person and provided by qualified instructors as determined by
24 IDFPR in consultation with the department of public health.

25 (e) Practitioners shall demonstrate minimal competency through psychometrically sound,
26 third party examination testing not given by the courses offering training.

27 (f) A standard set of competencies shall be defined, including the knowledge, skills, and
28 abilities needed for the safe and competent practice of trigger point acupuncture/dry needling by
29 non-Licensed acupuncturists by the department of public health.

30 (g) Anyone practicing dry needling shall obtain and maintain the advanced orthopedic
31 clinical certification.

32 (h) Any health care practitioner dry needling shall meet the continuing education required
33 for acupuncture.

34 (i) The CNT class and exam taught by the CCAOM shall be passed by all practitioners of
35 dry needling/trigger point acupuncture.

36 (j) Treatment defined as dry needling/trigger point acupuncture shall be charted
37 appropriately in the medical record.

38 (k) Significant adverse events (requiring follow up medical attention) shall be reported
39 and documented.

40 (l) Specific and appropriate written consent for treatment must be obtained from the
41 patient, and malpractice insurance policies must specify acupuncture coverage.

42 SECTION 3. The department of public health shall promulgate rules and regulations
43 necessary to the implementation of this chapter.