
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2364 Session of
2026

INTRODUCED BY RIVERA, SCHLEGEL, KHAN, CUTLER, HILL-EVANS,
GUENST, HANBIDGE, PASHINSKI, NEILSON, SANCHEZ, BURGOS,
GALLAGHER, MERSKI, PARKER, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ AND CURRY,
APRIL 7, 2026

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, APRIL 8, 2026

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

1 term does not include the stimulation of auricular or any other
2 points based upon areas of oriental medicine or the practice of
3 acupuncture under the act of February 14, 1986 (P.L.2, No.2),
4 known as the "Acupuncture Licensure Act."

5 * * *

6 "Physical therapy" means any of the following:

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

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

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

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

29 * * *

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

1 subsection to read:

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

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

6 * * *

7 Section 3. Section 9.1(c) introductory paragraph of the act
8 is amended to read:

9 Section 9.1. Physical Therapist Assistant; Education and
10 Examination; Scope of Duties; Certification.--* * *

11 (c) A physical therapist assistant while assisting a
12 licensed physical therapist in the practice of physical therapy
13 shall only perform patient-related physical therapy acts and
14 services that are assigned or delegated by and under the
15 supervision of a licensed physical therapist. Such acts and
16 services of a physical therapist assistant shall not include
17 evaluation, testing, dry needling, interpretation, planning or
18 modification of patient programs. For purposes of this section
19 the term "supervision" means as follows:

20 * * *

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