

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
BILL STATUS

BILL NO.	SPONSOR	TITLE	DATE INTRODUCED	DATE REFERRED	CMTE REFERRED	FISCAL NOTES	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	NOTES
276-38 (COR)	Tina Rose Muña-Barnes	AN ACT TO <i>AMEND</i> § 121504.1 AND § 12904 BOTH OF CHAPTER 12, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO INCLUDING DRY NEEDLING AND SPINAL MANIPULATION AS AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES FOR LICENSED PRACTITIONERS OF ACUPUNCTURE AND ORIENTAL MEDICINE.	2/12/26 1:45 p.m.						

I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2026 (SECOND) Regular Session

Bill No. 276-38 (COR)

Introduced by:

Tina Rose Muña-Barnes

**AN ACT TO AMEND § 121504.1 AND § 12904 BOTH OF
CHAPTER 12, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED,
RELATIVE TO INCLUDING DRY NEEDLING AND
SPINAL MANIPULATION AS AUTHORIZED
ACTIVITIES FOR LICENSED PRACTITIONERS OF
ACUPUNCTURE AND ORIENTAL MEDICINE.**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guahan* finds that

Licensed Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ACOM) practitioners in Guam are required to complete graduate-level education from accredited institutions, including extensive coursework and supervised clinical training in anatomy, physiology, neuroanatomy, musculoskeletal assessment, needle insertion techniques, and patient safety, and must successfully pass national and practical examinations as a condition of licensure. *I Liheslatura* further finds that dry needling and related neuromuscular needling techniques involve the use of filiform needles and invasive procedures that require a high level of anatomical knowledge, clinical judgment, and technical proficiency to ensure patient safety and effective clinical outcomes.

ACOM practitioners receive education and training in needling techniques that is comparable to, and in many cases exceeds, the training required of other

1 licensed health professionals currently authorized to perform dry needling through
2 post-licensure certification programs. However, current law explicitly authorizes dry
3 needling for physical therapists while failing to clearly recognize the authority of
4 ACOM practitioners, resulting in regulatory ambiguity and unnecessary barriers to
5 patient access to qualified and fully licensed providers.

6 *I Liheslaturan Guahan* further finds that spinal manipulation, mobilization,
7 and manual therapy techniques are evidence-based interventions for the treatment of
8 musculoskeletal and neuromuscular conditions, and that contemporary ACOM
9 educational programs include instruction in orthopedic evaluation, manual therapies,
10 and neuromuscular treatment approaches consistent with accepted standards of care.
11 Clarifying and updating the scope of practice for ACOM practitioners promotes
12 patient safety by ensuring that invasive and manual procedures are performed by
13 professionals with appropriate education, training, and demonstrated competency,
14 and supports continuity of care and integrated health service delivery in Guam.

15 Therefore, it is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guahan*, to clarify and modernize
16 the scope of practice for Licensed Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine practitioners
17 by explicitly authorizing dry needling and spinal manipulation, mobilization, and
18 manual therapy techniques when performed consistent with the practitioner’s
19 education, training, and demonstrated competency, while preserving the authority of
20 the appropriate licensing boards to adopt and enforce rules and regulations necessary
21 to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

22 **Section 2.** § 121504.1. of Chapter 12, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated is
23 amended to read:

24 **“§ 121504.1. Dry Needling.**

25 (a) For the purpose of this Article, dry needling, also known as
26 intramuscular therapy or stimulation, means an advanced needling skill or
27 technique limited to the treatment of myofascial pain, using a single use,

1 single insertion, sterile filiform needle (without the use of heat, cold, or any
2 other added modality or medication), that is inserted into the skin or
3 underlying tissues to stimulate myofascial trigger points. Dry needling may
4 apply theory based only upon Western medical concepts, requires an
5 examination and diagnosis, and treats specific anatomic entities selected
6 according to physical signs. Dry needling does not include the teaching or
7 application of acupuncture described by the stimulation of auricular points,
8 utilization of distal points or non-local points, needle retention, application of
9 retained electric stimulation leads, or other acupuncture theory.

10 (b) A physical therapist licensed under this Article may only perform
11 dry needling after completion of the requirements set forth herein, and by the
12 Board by rules and regulation, that meet or exceed the following:

13 (1) no less than fifty (50) hours of instructional courses that
14 include, but are not limited to, studies in the musculoskeletal and
15 neuromuscular system, the anatomical basis of pain mechanisms,
16 chronic and referred pain, myofascial trigger point theory, and
17 universal precautions;

18 (2) completion of no less than thirty (30) hours of didactic course
19 work specific to dry needling;

20 (3) successful completion of no less than twenty-four (24)
21 practicum hours in dry needling course work;

22 (4) completion of at least two hundred (200) supervised patient
23 treatment sessions; and

24 (5) successful completion of a competency examination.

25 (c) A Licensed Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine practitioner
26 licensed under Chapter 12, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, may perform dry
27 needling consistent with the practitioner's education, training, and

1 demonstrated competency, as determined by the applicable licensing board
2 and in accordance with rules and regulations adopted pursuant to law.

3 (d) Dry needling shall only be performed by a licensed physical
4 therapist or Licensed Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine practitioners.

5 (de) Any physical therapist or practitioner licensed under the provisions
6 of this Article shall use only sterilized disposable needles. The Board member
7 representing physical therapy or Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine, or the
8 Board’s authorized agent or representative, shall periodically inspect each
9 clinic or place where dry needling may be performed, with the assistance of
10 the Department of Public Health and Social Services, and report their findings
11 to the Board.”

12 **Section 3.** § 12904 of Chapter 12, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated is amended
13 to read:

14 “ **§ 12904. Authorized Activities.**

15 An acupuncturist license authorizes the holder to the following:

16 (a) to engage in the practice of acupuncture, including dry
17 needling, trigger point needling, intramuscular stimulation, and related
18 neuromuscular needling techniques; and

19 (b) to perform the use of Oriental massage, breathing techniques,
20 exercise or nutrition, including the incorporation of drugless substances
21 or herbal products as dietary supplements to promote health.

22 (c) to perform spinal manipulation, mobilization, and manual
23 therapy techniques consistent with their education, training, and
24 demonstrated competency. The Board may establish by rule minimum
25 education, training, or competency requirements for spinal
26 manipulation techniques.