

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 56th Legislature (2018)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
4 FOR

5 SENATE BILL NO. 1523

By: Griffin

6  
7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

8 An Act relating to the practice of acupuncture;  
9 providing definitions; creating the Acupuncture  
10 Committee; providing jurisdiction of Committee;  
11 providing for membership; providing standards for  
12 membership; providing appointing authority; stating  
13 that members shall receive no compensation; providing  
14 certain reimbursement; providing powers and duties of  
15 Committee; providing standards for licensure;  
16 establishing certain fees; providing for licenses;  
17 providing continuing education requirements;  
18 providing guidelines for renewal, suspension, and  
19 other administrative actions relating to licenses;  
20 requiring acupuncturists to perform certain acts;  
21 prohibiting certain delegation of duties; requiring  
22 maintenance of patient records; requiring notice to  
23 patients in certain circumstances; providing  
24 standards for acupuncture practice; providing grounds  
for denial of licenses; providing penalties for  
certain acts; providing exemptions; providing for  
codification; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6100 of Title 59, unless there  
is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. As used in this act:

1        1. "Acupuncture" means a form of primary health care that  
2 employs acupuncture diagnosis and treatment, as well as adjunctive  
3 therapies and diagnostic techniques, for the promotion, maintenance  
4 and restoration of health and the prevention of disease and  
5 includes, but is not be limited to, the insertion of an acupuncture  
6 needle or the application of moxibustion to specific areas of the  
7 human body to treat and mitigate a human condition, the  
8 administration of thermal or electro-acupuncture, or the  
9 recommendation or administration of Qi Gong, oriental massage,  
10 herbal therapy, dietary guidelines or other adjunctive properties in  
11 conjunction with acupuncture;

12        2. "Acupuncturist" means any person licensed as provided in  
13 this act to practice acupuncture as a primary health care provider;

14        3. "Board" means the State Board of Osteopathic Examiners;

15        4. "Committee" means the Acupuncture Committee;

16        5. "License" means the document of authorization issued by the  
17 Board for a person to engage in the practice of acupuncture;

18        6. "Oriental medicine" means the use of acupuncture, electro-  
19 acupuncture, Qi Gong, Guasha, oriental massage, herbal therapy,  
20 dietary guidelines and other adjunctive therapies; and

21        7. "Prescriptive rights" means the prescription, administration  
22 and use of needles and devices, restricted devices and prescription  
23 devices used in the practice of acupuncture and oriental medicine.

24

SECTION 2. NEW LAW

A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6100.1 of Title 59, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby established an Acupuncture Committee to assist the State Board of Osteopathic Examiners in conducting examinations for applicants and to advise the Board on all matters pertaining to the licensure, education and continuing education of acupuncturists and the practice of acupuncture.

B. The Acupuncture Committee shall consist of five (5) members who shall be appointed by the State Board of Osteopathic Examiners as follows:

1. Two members shall be acupuncturists licensed to practice in this state;

2. One member shall be laypersons who are not and who have never been acupuncturists or members of any closely related profession;

3. One member who is licensed by the State Board of Osteopathic Examiners; and

4. One member who is licensed by the State Medical Licensure and Supervision.

C. Members of the Committee shall be appointed for terms of four (4) years or for the remainder of an unexpired term of a vacancy. Members shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing

1 authority. Vacancies on the Committee shall be filled by the Board  
2 in the same manner as the original appointment.

3 D. Members of the Committee shall not be compensated but may be  
4 reimbursed for all actual and necessary expenses incurred in the  
5 performance of duties required by this act in accordance with the  
6 provisions of the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

7 E. The Committee shall have the power and duty to:

8 1. Assist the Board in promulgating rules;

9 2. Assist in selecting and conducting examinations for  
10 licensure, and in determining which applicants successfully pass  
11 such examination;

12 3. Advise the Board on all matters pertaining to the licensure,  
13 education and continuing education requirements for and practice of  
14 acupuncture in this state; and

15 4. Assist and advise in all hearings involving acupuncturists  
16 who are deemed to be in violation of this act.

17 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
18 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6100.2 of Title 59, unless there  
19 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

20 A. Any person shall be eligible for licensure who:

21 1. Is a resident of this state;

22 2. a. has successfully completed an approved apprenticeship,  
23 tutorial program or master's degree program meeting  
24

1 the standards of the National Certification Commission  
2 for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM), or

3 b. has graduated from an acupuncture school accredited by  
4 the Oklahoma Board of Private Vocational Schools;

5 3. Has submitted all documentation to verify the requirements  
6 of paragraph 2 of this section to the Acupuncture Committee created  
7 by Section 2 of this act;

8 4. Has continuously practiced in this state after January 1,  
9 2014, as witnessed by either:

10 a. photocopies of paychecks, paycheck stubs, Internal  
11 Revenue Service (IRS) Forms W-2, 1099-Misc., or  
12 Schedules C or C-EZ for IRS Form 1040 to verify proof  
13 of income, or

14 b. notarized letters from five individuals other than  
15 family members attesting to the applicant's continuous  
16 practice;

17 5. Is at least twenty-one (21) years of age or older, has good  
18 moral character and has the ability to communicate in the English  
19 language, demonstrated by having passed the national written  
20 examination in English or, if such examination was satisfactorily  
21 completed in a foreign language, by also having passed a nationally  
22 recognized English proficiency examination; and

23 6. Pays the required fees set by the Board by rule, but not to  
24 exceed the following amounts:

1           a.    application fees shall not exceed Three Hundred  
2                   Dollars (\$300.00), and

3           b.    initial biennial licensure fees shall not exceed Four  
4                   Hundred Dollars (\$400.00), provided applicants shall  
5                   be permitted to submit separate payments of Two  
6                   Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) in each half of the  
7                   biennium.

8           B.    Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection A of this  
9    section, any applicant shall be eligible for licensure who:

10          1.    Is at least twenty-one (21) years of age or older, has good  
11                  moral character, and has the ability to communicate in the English  
12                  language, demonstrated by having passed the national written  
13                  examination in English or, if such examination was satisfactorily  
14                  completed in a foreign language, by also having passed a nationally  
15                  recognized English proficiency examination;

16          2.    Has completed eighty (80) hours of college credits from an  
17                  accredited postsecondary institution as a prerequisite to enrollment  
18                  in a three-year course of study accredited and approved by the  
19                  Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine  
20                  (ACAOM), and has completed a three-year course of study in  
21                  acupuncture and oriental medicine meeting the standards established  
22                  by the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision. Such  
23                  standards shall include, but not be limited to, successful  
24                  completion of academic courses in anatomy, physiology, pathology,

1 biomedical terminology, first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation  
2 (CPR); provided, however, any person enrolled in an authorized  
3 course of study before January 1, 2000, shall only be required to  
4 have completed a two-year course of study meeting the standards  
5 established by the Board. Such standards shall include, but not be  
6 limited to, successful completion of academic courses in anatomy,  
7 physiology and pathology;

8 3. Has acquired a passing score of at least seventy on the  
9 NCCAOM Examinations for "Foundations of Oriental Medicine" and  
10 "Acupuncture with Point Location" or has acquired a Diplomate of  
11 Acupuncture or Diplomate of Oriental Medicine;

12 4. Submits proof of successful completion of a clean needle  
13 technique course approved by the NCCAOM; provided, such proof shall  
14 be sent by the course provider to the Board; and

15 5. Pays the required fees set by the Board by rule, but not to  
16 exceed the following amounts:

17 a. application fees shall not exceed Three Hundred  
18 Dollars (\$300.00), and

19 b. initial biennial licensure fees shall not exceed Four  
20 Hundred Dollars (\$400.00), provided applicants shall  
21 be permitted to submit separate payments of Two  
22 Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) in each half of the  
23 biennium.  
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1       SECTION 4.       NEW LAW       A new section of law to be codified

2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6100.3 of Title 59, unless there  
3 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4       A.   The State Board of Osteopathic Examiners may license and  
5 renew a license upon receipt of an application and the required fee.

6       B.   The Board, in consultation with the Acupuncture Committee,  
7 shall adopt rules establishing a procedure for licensing and renewal  
8 of licenses.

9       C.   The Board, in consultation with the Committee, shall by rule  
10 prescribe continuing education requirements, not to exceed thirty  
11 (30) hours biennially, as a condition for renewal of a license. All  
12 education programs that contribute to the advancement, extension or  
13 enhancement of professional skills and knowledge related to the  
14 practice of acupuncture, whether conducted by a nonprofit or profit-  
15 making entity, shall be eligible for approval. The continuing  
16 professional education requirements must be in acupuncture or  
17 oriental medicine subjects including, but not limited to, anatomy,  
18 biological sciences, adjunctive therapies, sanitation and  
19 sterilization, emergency protocols and diseases.

20       D.   The Board, in consultation with the Committee, shall have  
21 the authority to set a fee, not to exceed One Hundred Dollars  
22 (\$100.00), for each continuing education provider. The licensee  
23 shall retain in his or her records the certificates of completion of  
24 continuing professional education requirements to prove compliance



1 with this subsection. The Board may request such documentation  
2 without cause from applicants who are selected at random. All  
3 national and state acupuncture and oriental medicine organizations  
4 and acupuncture and oriental medicine schools are approved to  
5 provide continuing professional education in accordance with this  
6 subsection. For the first year of licensure continuing education  
7 hours shall not be required.

8 E. A license that has become inactive may be reactivated under  
9 this section upon application to the Board. The Board, in  
10 consultation with the Committee, shall prescribe by rule continuing  
11 education requirements as a condition of reactivating a license.  
12 The continuing education requirements for reactivating a license  
13 must not exceed ten (10) classroom hours for each year the license  
14 was inactive, in addition to completion of the number of hours  
15 required for renewal on the date the license became inactive.

16 F. The Board, in consultation with the Committee, shall adopt  
17 rules relating to application procedures for inactive status,  
18 renewal of inactive licenses and reactivation of licenses. The  
19 Board shall prescribe by rule an application fee for inactive  
20 status, a renewal fee for inactive status, a delinquency fee and a  
21 fee for the reactivation of a license. None of these fees may  
22 exceed the biennial renewal fee established by the Board for an  
23 active license.  
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1       G. The Board shall not reactivate a license unless the inactive  
2 or delinquent licensee has paid any applicable biennial renewal or  
3 delinquency fee, or both, and a reactivation fee.

4       SECTION 5.       NEW LAW       A new section of law to be codified  
5 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6100.4 of Title 59, unless there  
6 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

7       A. An acupuncturist licensed in this state shall:

8       1. Practice within the scope of education and training as  
9 defined by this act;

10      2. Disclose the acupuncturist's legal name on all documentation  
11 regarding the practice of acupuncture and advertisements;

12      3. When offering gratuitous services or discounts in connection  
13 with acupuncture, the offer shall clearly and conspicuously state  
14 whether or not additional charges may be incurred by related  
15 services as well as the range of such additional charges;

16      4. Post the license at the place of work or provide the patient  
17 documentation of licensure. For purposes of this paragraph,  
18 "patient" means any individual for whom the practice of acupuncture  
19 is performed;

20      5. Prior to performing initial acupuncture services, document  
21 in writing patient assessment information. Written patient  
22 assessment information shall include, but not be limited to, the  
23 following:

24       a. purpose of the visit,

- b. presence and location of pain and any preexisting conditions,
- c. allergies or current medication used and for what purpose,
- d. if the patient is under the care of any health or mental health care professional,
- e. surgical history,
- f. signed consent for treatment and date signed, and
- g. information provided to the patient concerning fees and financial arrangements;

6. Update patient records at each session. Such updated patient record information shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following:

- a. changes or additions regarding patient assessment,
- b. date and type of acupuncture service provided, and
- c. the signature of the acupuncturist and when applicable, the name of the detox technician or acupuncture trainee that provided the acupuncture service;

7. Provide current information concerning anticipated course of treatment;

8. Safeguard the maintenance, storage and disposal of records of patients so that an unauthorized person shall not have access to patient records; and

1        9. Inform a patient regarding the limits of confidentiality  
2 when providing services.

3        B. An acupuncturist shall not delegate acupuncture duties to a  
4 person that is not qualified or licensed to perform acupuncture.

5        C. For the purpose of this act, but not necessarily for other  
6 legal purposes, an acupuncturist shall maintain patient records for  
7 a minimum of five (5) years after the date of service is rendered,  
8 or not less than the time required by other applicable regulations,  
9 if that time is longer than five (5) years.

10       D. If a licensed acupuncturist discontinues practice in this  
11 state, the licensee shall notify the patient in writing at least  
12 thirty (30) days in advance of discontinuing practice that the  
13 patient records shall be made available to either the patient or  
14 another licensed acupuncturist of the patient's choosing. The Board  
15 may waive the thirty-day requirement if the licensee can make a  
16 showing of good cause for failing to comply.

17       E. If services are to be provided by an acupuncturist trainee,  
18 the patient shall be advised in advance.

19       F. Acupuncturists and acupuncturist trainees under the  
20 supervision of a licensed acupuncturist shall follow the standards  
21 for Clean Needle Technique (CNT) as published by the National  
22 Acupuncture Foundation in effect at the time the acupuncture service  
23 is performed, and shall follow universal precautions. For the  
24 purpose of this subsection, "universal precautions" means an

1 approach to infection control as defined by the United States  
2 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

3 G. All acupuncture needles shall be disposed of immediately  
4 after use and placed in a biohazard container as required by the  
5 U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health  
6 Administration (OSHA).

7 H. All acupuncture needles that are used must be sterile and  
8 disposable, and each needle may be used only once. Specific  
9 procedures of the protocol are outlined in the Clean Needle  
10 Technique Manual published by the National Acupuncture Foundation.

11 I. After each patient, a chemical disinfectant shall be used on  
12 all equipment that does not penetrate the skin, come into direct  
13 contact with needles or is made of rubber or plastic. Chemical  
14 disinfectants include, but are not limited to:

- 15 1. Chlorine-based agents, such as bleach;
- 16 2. Aqueous solution of two percent (2%) glutaraldehyde; and
- 17 3. Seventy percent (70%) ethyl or isopropyl alcohol.

18 SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
19 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6100.5 of Title 69, unless there  
20 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

21 A. The following acts shall constitute grounds for denial of a  
22 license or disciplinary action to be determined by the State Board  
23 of Osteopathic Examiners, in consultation with the Acupuncture  
24 Committee:

- 1        1. Demonstration of behavior that lacks integrity, objectivity,  
2 and does not foster trust in the profession of acupuncture;
- 3        2. Failing to conduct business and activities relating to  
4 acupuncture with honesty and integrity;
- 5        3. Failing to respect and protect the legal and personal rights  
6 of the patient or client, including the right to informed consent,  
7 refusal of treatment and refraining from endangering patient health,  
8 safety or welfare;
- 9        4. Participating in illegal or unethical acts, or concealing  
10 illegal, unethical or incompetent acts of others;
- 11       5. Failing to comply with all state and federal laws and  
12 regulations regarding the practice of acupuncture;
- 13       6. Failing to report suspected violations of the laws and  
14 regulations governing the practice of acupuncture that are not  
15 confidential and any other applicable state or federal laws and  
16 rules. The acupuncturist shall cooperate with any investigation or  
17 proceeding;
- 18       7. Attempting to obtain, obtaining or renewing a license to  
19 practice acupuncture by bribery, by fraudulent misrepresentations or  
20 through an error of the Board;
- 21       8. Having a license to practice acupuncture revoked, suspended  
22 or otherwise acted against, including the denial of licensure, by  
23 the licensing authority of another state, territory or country;
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1        9. Being convicted or found guilty, regardless of adjudication,  
2 in any jurisdiction of a crime which directly relates to the  
3 practice of acupuncture or to the ability to practice acupuncture.  
4 Any plea of nolo contendere shall be considered a conviction for  
5 purposes of this act;

6        10. False, deceptive or misleading advertising or advertising  
7 which claims that acupuncture is useful in curing any disease;

8        11. Encouraging unnecessary or unjustified acupuncture  
9 services;

10       12. Engaging in any verbally or physically abusive behavior  
11 with a patient/client;

12       13. Exploiting a patient or trainee for the purpose of  
13 financial gain. For the purpose of this subsection, "exploitation"  
14 shall be defined as any relationship between the acupuncturist,  
15 patient/client or trainee that may cause harm to the patient/client;

16       14. Accepting gifts or benefits intended to influence a  
17 referral, decision or treatment that are primarily for personal  
18 gain;

19       15. Engaging in or exercising influence concerning sexual  
20 activity with a patient or during an ongoing professional  
21 relationship with such person or within six (6) months after  
22 termination of such professional relationship. A patient shall be  
23 presumed to be incapable of giving free, full and informed consent  
24 to sexual activity with his or her acupuncturist;

1        16. Failing to keep written medical records justifying the  
2 course of treatment of the patient;

3        17. Making deceptive, untrue or fraudulent representations in  
4 the practice of acupuncture or employing a trick or scheme in the  
5 practice of acupuncture when such scheme or trick fails to conform  
6 to the generally prevailing standards of treatment in the community;

7        18. Aiding, assisting, procuring, employing or advising any  
8 unlicensed person to practice acupuncture contrary to the provisions  
9 of this act or to a rule of the Board;

10       19. Gross or repeated malpractice or the failure to practice  
11 acupuncture with that level of care, skill and treatment which is  
12 recognized by a reasonably prudent similar acupuncturist as being  
13 acceptable under similar conditions and circumstances;

14       20. Practicing or offering to practice beyond the scope  
15 permitted by law or accepting and performing professional  
16 responsibilities which the licensee knows or has reason to know that  
17 he or she is not competent to perform;

18       21. Delegating professional responsibilities to a person when  
19 the licensee delegating such responsibilities knows or has reason to  
20 know that such person is not qualified by training, experience or  
21 licensure to perform them;

22       22. Violating a lawful order of the Board previously entered in  
23 a disciplinary hearing or failing to comply with a lawfully issued  
24 subpoena of the Board;



1       23. Conspiring with another to commit an act or committing an  
2 act which would tend to coerce, intimidate or preclude another  
3 licensee from lawfully advertising his or her services;

4       24. Fraud or deceit or gross negligence, incompetence or  
5 misconduct in the operation of a course of study;

6       25. Failing to comply with state, county or municipal  
7 regulations or reporting requirements relating to public health and  
8 the control of contagious and infectious diseases;

9       26. Failing to comply with any rule of the Board relating to  
10 health and safety including, but not limited to, the sterilization  
11 of needles and equipment and the disposal of potentially infectious  
12 materials;

13       27. Advertising, practicing or attempting to practice under a  
14 name other than one's own; and

15       28. Being unable to practice acupuncture with reasonable skill  
16 and safety to patients by reason of illness or use of alcohol,  
17 drugs, narcotics, chemicals or any other type of material or as a  
18 result of any mental or physical condition.

19       B. When the Board finds any licensee guilty of any of the  
20 actions set forth in this act, it may enter an order imposing one or  
21 more of the following penalties:

22           1. Refusal to certify an application for licensure;

23           2. Revocation or suspension of a license;

24           3. Restriction of practice;

- 1        4. Imposition of an administrative fine not to exceed One  
2 Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for each count or separate offense;  
3        5. Issuance of a reprimand; and  
4        6. Placement of the acupuncturist on probation for a period of  
5 time and subject to such conditions as the board may specify.

6        C. The Board shall not reinstate the license of an  
7 acupuncturist or cause a license to be issued to a person it has  
8 deemed to be unqualified until such time as the Board is satisfied  
9 that he or she has complied with all the terms and conditions set  
10 forth in the final order and that he or she is capable of safely  
11 engaging in the practice of acupuncture.

12        SECTION 7.        NEW LAW        A new section of law to be codified  
13 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6100.6 of Title 59, unless there  
14 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

15        The provisions of this act shall not apply to:

16        1. Any licensed allopathic physician, licensed osteopathic  
17 physician, licensed chiropractic physician, licensed physical  
18 therapist, certified physician assistant or certified nurse  
19 practitioner who is trained in acupuncture as a scope of his or her  
20 respective practice;

21        2. Any licensed veterinarian who performs acupuncture on  
22 animals; or

23        3. The practice of dry needling. For the purposes of this  
24 section, "dry needling" means a procedural intervention used by

1 licensed physical therapists to treat pain, functional impairments  
2 and disabilities. The technique involves the insertion of solid  
3 filament needles into the skin and underlying tissue to disrupt pain  
4 sensory pathways and relax contracted fibers.

5 SECTION 8. This act shall become effective November 1, 2018.

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