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SENATE BILL 5018

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State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By Senators Rivers, Cleveland, Dhingra, Lovelett, Short, and Wilson,  
C.

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on Health & Long Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to acupuncture and Eastern medicine; and amending  
2 RCW 18.06.010 and 18.06.230.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.06.010 and 2019 c 308 s 2 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 The following terms in this chapter shall have the meanings set  
7 forth in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

8 (1) "Acupuncture(~~"or"~~) and Eastern medicine" means a health  
9 care service utilizing acupuncture or Eastern medicine diagnosis and  
10 treatment to promote health and treat organic or functional disorders  
11 (~~and includes the following~~), which includes a variety of  
12 traditional and modern acupuncture and Eastern medicine therapeutic  
13 treatments, such as the practice of acupuncture techniques and herbal  
14 medicine to maintain and promote wellness, prevent, manage, and  
15 reduce pain, and treat substance use disorder. Acupuncture and  
16 Eastern medicine includes the following:

17 (a) (~~Acupuncture, including the use~~) Use of presterilized,  
18 disposable needles, such as filiform needles, and other acupuncture  
19 needles, syringes, or lancets to directly and indirectly stimulate  
20 meridians and acupuncture points (~~and meridians~~) including ashi

1 points, motor points, trigger points, and other nonspecific points  
2 throughout the body;

3 (b) Use of electrical, mechanical, or magnetic devices to  
4 stimulate meridians and acupuncture points ((and—meridians))  
5 including ashi points, motor points, trigger points, and other  
6 nonspecific points throughout the body;

7 (c) Intramuscular needling and dry needling of trigger points and  
8 other nonspecific points throughout the body in accordance with  
9 acupuncture and Eastern medicine training;

10 (d) All points and protocols for ear acupuncture including  
11 auricular acupuncture, national acupuncture detoxification  
12 association protocol, battlefield acupuncture, and the Nogier system;

13 (e) Use of contact needling and noninsertion tools such as  
14 teishin, enshin, or zanshin;

15 (f) Moxibustion;

16 ((~~d~~)) (g) Acupressure;

17 ((~~e~~)) (h) Cupping;

18 ((~~f~~)) (i) Dermal friction technique;

19 ((~~g~~)) (j) Infra-red;

20 ((~~h~~)) (k) Sonopuncture;

21 ((~~i~~)) (l) Laserpuncture;

22 ((~~j~~)) (m) Point injection therapy, as defined in rule by the  
23 department. Point injection therapy includes injection of substances,  
24 limited to saline, sterile water, herbs, minerals, vitamins in liquid  
25 form, and homeopathic and nutritional substances, consistent with the  
26 practice of acupuncture or Eastern medicine. Point injection therapy  
27 also includes injection of local anesthetics, such as lidocaine and  
28 procaine, for reduction of pain during point injection therapy,  
29 consistent with the practice of acupuncture and Eastern medicine and  
30 training requirements as defined in rule. An acupuncturist or  
31 acupuncture and Eastern medicine practitioner using point injection  
32 therapy who has met the training and education requirements  
33 established pursuant to RCW 18.06.230 may use oxygen, and epinephrine  
34 for potential emergency purposes, such as an allergic or adverse  
35 reaction, for patient care and safety. Point injection therapy does  
36 not include injection of controlled substances contained in Schedules  
37 I through V of the uniform controlled substances act, chapter 69.50  
38 RCW or steroids as defined in RCW 69.41.300;

39 ((~~k~~)) (n) Dietary advice and health education based on  
40 acupuncture or Eastern medical theory, including the recommendation

1 and sale of herbs, vitamins, minerals, and dietary and nutritional  
2 supplements;

3 ~~((l))~~ (o) Breathing, relaxation, and Eastern exercise  
4 techniques;

5 ~~((m))~~ (p) Qi gong;

6 ~~((n))~~ (q) Eastern massage and Tui na, which is a method of  
7 Eastern bodywork, characterized by the kneading, pressing, rolling,  
8 shaking, and stretching of the body and does not include spinal  
9 manipulation; and

10 ~~((o))~~ (r) Superficial heat and cold therapies.

11 (2) "Acupuncturist" or "acupuncture and Eastern medicine  
12 practitioner" means a person licensed under this chapter.

13 (3) "Department" means the department of health.

14 (4) "Secretary" means the secretary of health or the secretary's  
15 designee.

16 Nothing in this chapter requires individuals to be licensed as an  
17 acupuncturist or acupuncture and Eastern medicine practitioner in  
18 order to provide the techniques and services in subsection (1) ~~((k))~~  
19 (n) through ~~((o))~~ (r) of this section or to sell herbal products.

20 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.06.230 and 2019 c 308 s 12 are each amended to  
21 read as follows:

22 (1) Prior to providing point injection therapy services, an  
23 acupuncturist or acupuncture and Eastern medicine practitioner must  
24 obtain the education and training necessary to provide the service.

25 (2) Any acupuncturist or acupuncture and Eastern medicine  
26 practitioner performing point injection therapy prior to June 9,  
27 2016, must be able to demonstrate, upon request of the department of  
28 health, successful completion of education and training in point  
29 injection therapy.

30 (3) Prior to administering local anesthetics, epinephrine, or  
31 oxygen in providing point injection therapy services, an  
32 acupuncturist or acupuncture and Eastern medicine practitioner must  
33 satisfy education and training requirements established by the  
34 department. The department must adopt rules establishing these  
35 requirements by July 1, 2022.

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