



APTA Brief on State Government Affairs

State: South Dakota

Issue(s): Dry Needling

Bill number: [HB 1079](#)

On March 1, 2018, South Dakota Governor Dennis Daugaard signed legislation permitting physical therapists (PTs) in the state to perform dry needling. The legislation amends the state's physical therapist practice act by allowing PTs to perform dry needling if the PT successfully completes a course of study in dry needling approved by the South Dakota Board of Medical and Osteopathic Examiners. Requirements for course approvals are in the process of being established, and are anticipated to be completed prior to the legislation's effective date of July 1, 2018.

The bill defines dry needling as “a skilled technique performed by a physical therapist using filiform needles to penetrate the skin and underlying tissues to affect change in body structures and physical function capability for the evaluation and management of neuromusculoskeletal conditions, pain, movement impairments, and disability.” Physical therapists previously were prohibited from providing dry needling in South Dakota.

South Dakota joins more than 40 other states and the District of Columbia in allowing patients access to dry needling provided by PTs.

Statement from the South Dakota Physical Therapy Association

“The SDPTA had established a solid, well-orchestrated team consisting of local content experts who compiled the necessary legislative educational materials. They were also able to effectively articulate all aspects of dry needling to the Health and Human Services Committees during testimony. In addition, the SDPTA utilized a very experienced lobbyist and State Legislative Committee Chair. Last but not least, the SDPTA had clinicians who were very invested in getting this legislation passed and did an excellent job contacting their respective legislators.” – Patrick Hauer, PT, EdD, MHS, SDPTA Chapter President

Of note: Dry needling legislation is also pending in [Idaho](#) and [New Jersey](#) in 2018, but this is just one of the many state legislative issues being addressed by APTA and its state chapters. Members can track state legislation of interest to the physical therapy profession through APTA’s [State Legislative Tracking Map](#).