



APTA Brief on State Government Affairs

State: Idaho

Issue(s): Dry Needling

Bill number: [HB 505](#)

On March 22, 2018, Idaho Governor Butch Otter signed legislation permitting physical therapists (PTs) in the state to perform dry needling. The legislation updates Idaho's physical therapy practice act to include dry needling within the PT scope of practice, if the PT has completed minimum education and training standards to be determined by the Idaho Physical Therapy Licensure Board. Educational courses will be required to be approved by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy or another nationally recognized accrediting body of physical therapy. This legislation's effective date will be July 1, 2018.

The legislation defines dry needling as "a skilled intervention performed by a physical therapist that uses a thin filiform needle to penetrate the skin and stimulate underlying neural, muscular and connective tissues for the evaluation and management of neuromusculoskeletal conditions, pain, and movement impairments." Physical therapists previously were prohibited from providing dry needling in Idaho.

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

Statement from the Idaho Physical Therapy Association

"Dry needling was the primary legislative focus for the Idaho Physical Therapy Association for the past few years. We are grateful for the efforts of all our members who supported this bill with communication to the legislators and attendance at hearings. This was a team effort. We are very happy to finally have dry needling in the state of Idaho after much study, planning, and discussion. Also, we are excited to join the other states that also allow therapists to perform dry needling instead of losing our therapists and patients to those states."- Derek Gerber, PT, DPT, Idaho Chapter President

Of note: Dry needling legislation was also enacted in South Dakota this year, and a bill is pending in [New Jersey](#). However, 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](#).