

SENATE BILL NO. 355—SENATOR PARKS

MARCH 18, 2019

Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to certain regulatory bodies which administer occupational licensing. (BDR 54-856)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No. Effect on the State: Yes.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets [omitted material] is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to regulatory bodies; clarifying that the scope of practice of chiropractors and physical therapists does not include dry needling; revising provisions governing the duties and powers of the State Board of Oriental Medicine; revising provisions governing the licensing of doctors of Oriental medicine; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

Existing law sets forth provisions governing the licensure and regulation of chiropractors, physical therapists and doctors of Oriental medicine. (Chapters 634, 634A and 640 of NRS) Existing law defines the scope of practice of physical therapy and restricts persons licensed to practice physical therapy from practicing other forms of healing. (NRS 640.024, 640.190) Additionally, with certain exceptions, existing law prohibits a licensed chiropractor from piercing or severing any body tissue. (NRS 634.225) Sections 12 and 13 of this bill clarify that the scope of practice of physical therapy does not include dry needling. Section 1 of this bill clarifies that a chiropractor is prohibited from performing dry needling. Section 3 of this bill provides that the practice of Oriental medicine specifically includes dry needling as well as moxibustion and cupping.

Section 2 of this bill authorizes the State Board of Oriental Medicine to issue an endorsement to practice acupuncture point injection therapy to a doctor of Oriental medicine who meets certain requirements. Section 5 of this bill eliminates the authority of the Board in existing law to fix and pay a salary to the Secretary-Treasurer. (NRS 634A.060) Section 6 of this bill eliminates the requirement in existing law that the Board establish and maintain a list of accredited schools and colleges of Oriental medicine. (NRS 634A.080)

Existing law authorizes the establishment and maintenance of a school or college of Oriental medicine in this State if its establishment and curriculum is



21 approved by the Board. (NRS 634A.090) **Section 7** of this bill: (1) eliminates the  
22 requirement that the Board annually approve the curriculum; and (2) requires that  
23 the school or college be accredited by or have received at least candidacy status for  
24 accreditation from the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental  
25 Medicine or its successor organization and hold a current license issued by the  
26 Commission on Postsecondary Education. **Section 4** of this bill makes a  
27 conforming change.

28 Existing law requires an applicant for a license to practice as a doctor of  
29 Oriental medicine to: (1) pass a national examination in Oriental medicine  
30 administered by a national organization approved by the Board and a practical  
31 examination approved by the Board that tests certain subject areas; and (2) meet  
32 certain educational and other requirements. (NRS 634A.120, 634A.140) **Section 8**  
33 of this bill requires such an applicant to pass each examination required and  
34 administered by the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and  
35 Oriental Medicine or its successor organization for certification in Oriental  
36 medicine. Additionally, **section 8** eliminates several subjects on the examination  
37 approved by the Board. For issuance of a license, **section 9** of this bill: (1) revises  
38 the educational requirements; (2) requires applicants to hold a current certification  
39 in Oriental medicine issued by the National Certification Commission for  
40 Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine or its successor organization; and (3)  
41 authorizes the counting of certain work experience in lieu of educational experience  
42 for applicants who attended a school or college of Oriental medicine before  
43 January 1, 2008.

44 **Sections 10 and 11** of this bill consolidate the requirements relating to the  
45 renewal of a license. **Section 14** of this bill eliminates the requirement in existing  
46 law that the applicant for the issuance or renewal of a license to practice Oriental  
47 medicine attest to knowledge of and compliance with certain guidelines of the  
48 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention concerning the prevention of  
49 transmission of infectious agents through safe and appropriate injection practices.  
50 (NRS 634A.144)

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THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 **Section 1.** NRS 634.225 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
2 634.225 **1.** A chiropractor shall not pierce or sever any body  
3 tissue, *including, without limitation by performing dry needling,*  
4 except to draw blood for diagnostic purposes.

5 **2.** *As used in this section, "dry needling" has the meaning*  
6 *ascribed to it in NRS 634A.020.*

7 **Sec. 2.** Chapter 634A of NRS is hereby amended by adding  
8 thereto a new section to read as follows:

9 **1.** *A doctor of Oriental medicine licensed pursuant to this*  
10 *chapter may apply to the Board for an endorsement to practice*  
11 *acupuncture point injection therapy. The applicant must submit*  
12 *with his or her application proof that the applicant has:*

13 *(a) Successfully completed postgraduate coursework approved*  
14 *by the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and*  
15 *Oriental Medicine or a successor organization which provides at*  
16 *least 24 hours of instruction provided in person, including,*



1 *without limitation, at least 8 hours of instruction received by*  
2 *practicum and 2 hours of training in the administration of*  
3 *intramuscular epinephrine; and*

4 *(b) Obtained or otherwise carries a policy of professional*  
5 *liability insurance which insures the applicant against any liability*  
6 *arising from the provision of acupuncture point injection therapy*  
7 *by the applicant.*

8 *2. The Board shall issue an endorsement to practice*  
9 *acupuncture point injection therapy to an applicant who meets the*  
10 *requirements of subsection 1.*

11 *3. A licensee who is issued an endorsement to practice*  
12 *acupuncture point injection therapy may only inject substances for*  
13 *which the licensee has received training which may include,*  
14 *without limitation, nutritional, homeopathic and herbal*  
15 *substances and local anesthetics, including, without limitation,*  
16 *procaine and lidocaine.*

17 *4. As used in this section, "acupuncture point injection*  
18 *therapy" means the subcutaneous, intramuscular and intradermal*  
19 *injection of substances to stimulate acupuncture points, ashi*  
20 *points and trigger points to relieve pain and prevent illness.*

21 **Sec. 3.** NRS 634A.020 is hereby amended to read as follows:

22 634A.020 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise  
23 requires:

24 1. "Acupuncture" means the insertion of needles into the  
25 human body by piercing the skin of the body to control , ~~[and]~~  
26 regulate , ~~[the flow and balance of energy in the body and to]~~ cure,  
27 relieve or palliate ~~[:]~~ *the body for therapeutic purposes:*

28 (a) Any ailment or disease of the mind or body; or

29 (b) Any wound, bodily injury or deformity.

30 2. "Board" means the State Board of Oriental Medicine.

31 3. "Doctor of Oriental medicine" means a person who is  
32 licensed under the provisions of this chapter to practice as a doctor  
33 of Oriental medicine.

34 4. **"Dry needling":**

35 *(a) Means an advanced needling skill or technique limited to*  
36 *the treatment of myofascial pain, using a single-use, single-*  
37 *insertion, sterile needle without the use of heat, cold or any other*  
38 *added modality or medication, which is inserted into the skin or*  
39 *underlying tissue to stimulate a trigger point.*

40 *(b) Does not include:*

41 *(1) The stimulation of an auricular point;*

42 *(2) Utilization of a distal point or nonlocal point;*

43 *(3) Needle retention;*

44 *(4) Application of a retained electrical stimulation lead; or*



1           (5) *The teaching or application of other acupuncture*  
2 *theory.*

3           5. “Herbal medicine” and “practice of herbal medicine” mean  
4 suggesting, recommending, prescribing or directing the use of herbs  
5 for the cure, relief or palliation of any ailment or disease of the mind  
6 or body, or for the cure or relief of any wound, bodily injury or  
7 deformity.

8           ~~5.] 6. “Herbs” means [plants or parts of plants valued for~~  
9 ~~medicinal qualities.~~

10 ~~—6.] any plant or part of a plant which is not prohibited by the~~  
11 ~~laws of the United States or this State and is used in tests or~~  
12 ~~examinations in the practice of Oriental medicine.~~

13           7. “Oriental medicine” means ~~[that]~~ a system of ~~[the]~~ healing  
14 ~~[art]~~ which ~~[places the chief emphasis on the flow and balance of~~  
15 ~~energy in the body mechanism as being the most important single~~  
16 ~~factor in maintaining the well-being of the organism in health and~~  
17 ~~disease. The term]~~ includes , *without limitation*, the practice of  
18 acupuncture , ~~[and]~~ herbal medicine , *moxibustion, cupping, dry*  
19 *needling* and other services approved by the Board.

20           **Sec. 4.** NRS 634A.040 is hereby amended to read as follows:

21           634A.040 1. The Governor shall appoint four members to the  
22 Board who:

- 23           (a) Have a license issued pursuant to this chapter;  
24           (b) Currently engage in the practice of Oriental medicine in this  
25 State, and have engaged in the practice of Oriental medicine in this  
26 State for at least 3 years preceding appointment to the Board;  
27           (c) Are citizens of the United States; and  
28           (d) Are residents of the State of Nevada and have been for at  
29 least 1 year preceding appointment to the Board.

30           2. The Governor shall appoint one member to the Board who:

- 31           (a) Is licensed pursuant to chapter 630 of NRS by the Board of  
32 Medical Examiners as a physician;  
33           (b) Does not engage in the administration of a facility for  
34 Oriental medicine or a school for Oriental medicine;  
35           (c) Does not have a pecuniary interest in any matter pertaining  
36 to Oriental medicine, except as a patient or potential patient;  
37           (d) Is a citizen of the United States; and  
38           (e) Is a resident of the State of Nevada and has been for at least  
39 1 year preceding appointment to the Board.

40           3. The Governor shall appoint one member to the Board who:

- 41           (a) Does not engage in the administration of a facility for  
42 Oriental medicine or a school for Oriental medicine;  
43           (b) Does not have a pecuniary interest in any matter pertaining  
44 to Oriental medicine, except as a patient or potential patient;  
45           (c) Is a citizen of the United States; and



1 (d) Is a resident of the State of Nevada and has been for at least  
2 1 year preceding appointment to the Board.

3 4. The Governor shall appoint one member to the Board who  
4 represents a school or college of Oriental medicine ~~{whose~~  
5 ~~establishment has been approved by the Board}~~ *established* pursuant  
6 to NRS 634A.090.

7 **Sec. 5.** NRS 634A.060 is hereby amended to read as follows:

8 634A.060 The Board shall annually elect from its members a  
9 President, Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer . ~~{, and may fix~~  
10 ~~and pay a salary to the Secretary-Treasurer.}~~

11 **Sec. 6.** NRS 634A.080 is hereby amended to read as follows:

12 634A.080 The Board shall:

13 1. Hold meetings at least once a year and at any other time at  
14 the request of the President or the majority of the members;

15 2. Have and use a common seal;

16 3. Deposit in interest-bearing accounts in the State of Nevada  
17 all money received under the provisions of this chapter, which must  
18 be used to defray the expenses of the Board;

19 4. ~~{Establish and maintain a list of accredited schools and~~  
20 ~~colleges of Oriental medicine that are approved by the Board;~~

21 ~~—5.}~~ Operate on the basis of the fiscal year beginning July 1 and  
22 ending June 30; and

23 ~~{6.}~~ 5. Keep a record of its proceedings which must be open to  
24 the public at all times and which must contain the name and  
25 business address of every registered licensee in this State.

26 **Sec. 7.** NRS 634A.090 is hereby amended to read as follows:

27 634A.090 1. A school or college of Oriental medicine may  
28 be established and maintained in this State only if:

29 (a) Its establishment is approved by the Board; ~~{and}~~

30 (b) ~~{Its curriculum is approved annually by the Board for~~  
31 ~~content and quality of instruction in accordance with the~~  
32 ~~requirements of this chapter.}~~ *It is accredited by or has received at*

33 *least candidacy status for institutional accreditation from the*  
34 *Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental*  
35 *Medicine or its successor organization; and*

36 (c) *It holds a current license issued by the Commission on*  
37 *Postsecondary Education.*

38 2. The Board may prescribe the course of study required for the  
39 degree of doctor of Oriental medicine.

40 **Sec. 8.** NRS 634A.120 is hereby amended to read as follows:

41 634A.120 1. Each applicant for a license to practice as a  
42 doctor of Oriental medicine must pass:

43 (a) ~~{An examination in Oriental medicine that is administered by~~  
44 ~~a national organization approved by the Board;}~~ *Each examination*  
45 *required and administered by the National Certification*



1 *Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine or its*  
2 *successor organization for certification in Oriental medicine;* and

3 (b) ~~[A practical]~~ An examination approved by the Board that  
4 tests the applicant's knowledge and understanding of ~~[~~

5 ~~— (1) Basic medical science;~~

6 ~~— (2) Acupuncture;~~

7 ~~— (3) Herbal medicine;~~

8 ~~— (4) Oriental medicine;~~

9 ~~— (5) English proficiency; and~~

10 ~~— (6) The]~~ *the* laws and regulations of this State relating to  
11 health and safety in the practice of Oriental medicine.

12 2. The Board may establish by regulation ~~[~~ *for the*  
13 *examination required by paragraph (b) of subsection 1:*

14 (a) Additional subject areas to be included in the ~~[practical]~~  
15 examination; and

16 (b) Specific methods for the administration of the ~~[practical]~~  
17 examination, including, but not limited to, written, oral,  
18 demonstrative, practical or any combination thereof.

19 3. The Board shall contract for the preparation, administration  
20 and grading of the ~~[practical]~~ examination ~~[~~ *required by*  
21 *paragraph (b) of subsection 1.*

22 4. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 5, the Board  
23 shall offer the ~~[practical]~~ examination *required by paragraph (b) of*  
24 *subsection 1* at least two times each year at a time and place  
25 established by the Board.

26 5. The Board may cancel a scheduled ~~[practical]~~ examination  
27 *required by paragraph (b) of subsection 1* if, within 60 days before  
28 the examination, the Board has not received a request to take the  
29 examination.

30 6. A person who fails the ~~[practical]~~ examination *required by*  
31 *paragraph (b) of subsection 1* may retake the examination.

32 **Sec. 9.** NRS 634A.140 is hereby amended to read as follows:

33 634A.140 *1.* The Board shall issue a license to practice as a  
34 doctor of Oriental medicine to an applicant who:

35 ~~[~~ (a) Has:

36 ~~[(a)]~~ (1) Successfully completed an accredited 4-year program  
37 of study, or its equivalent, in Oriental medicine at a school or  
38 college of Oriental medicine *accredited by the Accreditation*  
39 *Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine or its*  
40 *successor organization* that ~~[is approved]~~ *meets any requirements*  
41 *prescribed* by the Board ~~[~~ *pursuant to NRS 634A.090, including,*  
42 *without limitation, requirements concerning clinical and didactic*  
43 *components;*



1 ~~[(b)]~~ (2) Earned a bachelor's degree , *or completed a combined*  
2 *bachelor's and master's degree program in Oriental medicine,*  
3 from an accredited college or university in the United States;

4 ~~[(e)]~~ (3) Passed an investigation of his or her background and  
5 personal history conducted by the Board; and

6 ~~[(d)]~~ (4) Passed the examinations required by NRS 634A.120;  
7 ~~[(or)]~~ and

8 (b) *Holds a current certification in Oriental medicine issued by*  
9 *the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and*  
10 *Oriental Medicine or its successor organization.*

11 2. *Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, the Board*  
12 *may issue a license to practice as a doctor of Oriental medicine to*  
13 *an applicant who:*

14 (a) Has:

15 ~~[(a)]~~ (1) Successfully completed a 4-year program of study, or  
16 its equivalent, in Oriental medicine at a school or college of Oriental  
17 medicine that is approved by the Board ~~[(~~

18 ~~-(b)]~~ *and meets any requirements prescribed by the Board*  
19 *pursuant to NRS 634A.090, including, without limitation,*  
20 *requirements concerning clinical and didactic components;*

21 (2) Lawfully practiced Oriental medicine in another state or  
22 foreign country for at least 4 years;

23 ~~[(e)]~~ (3) Passed an investigation of his or her background and  
24 personal history conducted by the Board; and

25 ~~[(d)]~~ (4) Passed the examinations required by NRS 634A.120 ~~[(~~  
26 ; and

27 (b) *Holds a current certification in Oriental medicine issued by*  
28 *the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and*  
29 *Oriental Medicine or its successor organization.*

30 3. *The Board may issue a license to practice as a doctor of*  
31 *Oriental medicine to an applicant who:*

32 (a) Has:

33 (1) *Successfully completed a program in Oriental medicine*  
34 *from a school or college of Oriental medicine accredited by the*  
35 *Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental*  
36 *Medicine or its successor organization before January 1, 2008,*  
37 *that included the study of herbology;*

38 (2) *Practiced Oriental medicine pursuant to the laws of*  
39 *another state or territory of the United States, the District of*  
40 *Columbia, or foreign country for at least of 6 of the 8 years*  
41 *immediately preceding the date of the application;*

42 (3) *Passed an investigation of his or her background and*  
43 *personal history conducted by the Board; and*

44 (4) *Passed the examinations required by NRS 634A.120;*  
45 and



1 *(b) Holds a current certification in Oriental medicine issued by*  
2 *the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and*  
3 *Oriental Medicine or its successor organization.*

4 **Sec. 10.** NRS 634A.160 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
5 634A.160 ~~[1.]~~ Every license must be displayed in the office,  
6 place of business or place of employment of the holder thereof.

7 ~~[2.—Every person holding a license shall pay to the Board on or~~  
8 ~~before February 1 of each year, the annual fee for a license required~~  
9 ~~pursuant to subsection 4. The holder of a license shall submit with~~  
10 ~~the fee all information required to complete the renewal of the~~  
11 ~~license. If the holder of a license fails to pay the fee or submit all~~  
12 ~~required information, the license must be suspended. The license~~  
13 ~~may be reinstated by payment of the required fee and submission of~~  
14 ~~all required information within 90 days after February 1.~~

15 ~~—3.— A license which is suspended for more than 3 months under~~  
16 ~~the provisions of subsection 2 may be cancelled by the Board after~~  
17 ~~30 days' notice to the holder of the license.~~

18 ~~—4.— The annual fee for a license must be prescribed annually by~~  
19 ~~the Board and must not exceed \$1,000.]~~

20 **Sec. 11.** NRS 634A.167 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
21 634A.167 1. To renew a license issued pursuant to this  
22 chapter, each person must, on or before February 1 of each year:

23 (a) Apply to the Board for renewal;

24 (b) Pay the annual fee for a license prescribed by the Board ~~[2.]~~,  
25 *which must not exceed \$1,000;*

26 (c) Submit evidence to the Board of completion of the  
27 requirements for continuing education; and

28 (d) Submit all information required to complete the renewal.

29 2. The Board shall, as a prerequisite for the renewal or  
30 reinstatement of a license, require each holder of a license to comply  
31 with the requirements for continuing education adopted by the  
32 Board.

33 *3. If the holder of a license fails to pay the fee or submit all*  
34 *required information by February 1 of each year, the license*  
35 *expires automatically. The license may be reinstated by payment of*  
36 *the required fee and submission of all required information within*  
37 *90 days after the expiration of the license pursuant to this*  
38 *subsection.*

39 **Sec. 12.** NRS 640.024 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
40 640.024 “Practice of physical therapy”:

41 1. Includes:

42 (a) The performing and interpreting of tests and measurements  
43 as an aid to evaluation or treatment;

44 (b) The planning of initial and subsequent programs of treatment  
45 on the basis of the results of tests; and





1 (c) The administering of treatment through the use of therapeutic  
2 exercise and massage, the mobilization of joints by the use of  
3 therapeutic exercise without chiropractic adjustment, mechanical  
4 devices, and therapeutic agents which employ the properties of air,  
5 water, electricity, sound and radiant energy.

6 2. Does not include:

7 (a) The diagnosis of physical disabilities;

8 (b) The use of roentgenic rays or radium;

9 (c) The use of electricity for cauterization or surgery; ~~for~~

10 (d) The occupation of a masseur who massages only the  
11 superficial soft tissues of the body ~~for~~; or

12 (e) *The use of the technique of dry needling, as defined in*  
13 *NRS 634A.020.*

14 **Sec. 13.** NRS 640.190 is hereby amended to read as follows:

15 640.190 This chapter does not authorize a physical therapist,  
16 whether licensed or not, to practice medicine, osteopathic medicine,  
17 homeopathic medicine, chiropractic, *Oriental medicine* or any other  
18 form or method of healing.

19 **Sec. 14.** NRS 634A.144 is hereby repealed.

20 **Sec. 15.** This act becomes effective upon passage and approval  
21 for the purposes of adopting regulations and performing any other  
22 administrative tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of  
23 this act, and on January 1, 2020, for all other purposes.

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### TEXT OF REPEALED SECTION

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**634A.144 Board prohibited from issuing or renewing license unless applicant attests to certain information related to safe and appropriate injection practices.** The Board shall not issue or renew a license to practice Oriental medicine unless the applicant for issuance or renewal of the license attests to knowledge of and compliance with the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention concerning the prevention of transmission of infectious agents through safe and appropriate injection practices.







