

SENATE BILL 1072

By Watson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63,
Chapter 13, relative to medical occupations.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-13-103(10)(A)(i), is amended by deleting the subdivision and substituting instead the following:

(i) Screening, evaluation, assessment, planning, implementation, or discharge planning in order to determine an occupational therapy treatment diagnosis, prognosis, plan of therapeutic intervention, or discharge plan, or to assess the ongoing effect of intervention;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-13-103(10)(B), is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision:

() Practice of dry needling of the upper limb, with proper training and certification;

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-13-103(10)(C), is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision:

() Telehealth, telemedicine, or provider-based telemedicine, as authorized by § 63-1-155;

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-13-103(17), is amended by deleting the language ""Practice of physical therapy" means:" and substituting the language ""Practice of physical therapy" means, whether by in-person encounter or via telehealth, telemedicine, or provider-based telemedicine, as authorized by § 63-1-155, the following:".

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-13-103, is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision:

() "Upper limb" means the hand, wrist, elbow, and shoulder girdle;

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-13-103(10)(D), is amended by inserting the language "dry needling of the upper limb," immediately after the language "neurodevelopmental treatment,".

SECTION 7. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-13-208, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

() The practice of dry needling of the upper limb by an occupational therapist licensed under this chapter does not constitute the practice of acupuncture under chapter 6, part 10, of this title.

SECTION 8. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-13-216(l), is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision:

() Establish minimum competency requirements that an occupational therapist must demonstrate in order to practice dry needling of the upper limb.

SECTION 9. For the purpose of promulgating rules, this act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act takes effect July 1, 2021, the public welfare requiring it.