



General Assembly

February Session, 2012

Raised Bill No. 276

LCO No. 1511

01511_____PH_

Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:
(PH)

**AN ACT CONCERNING LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR
ACUPUNCTURISTS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 20-206bb of the 2012 supplement to the general
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective October 1, 2012*):

4 (a) No person shall engage in the practice of acupuncture without a
5 license as an acupuncturist issued pursuant to this section.

6 (b) Each person seeking licensure as an acupuncturist shall make
7 application on forms prescribed by the department, pay an application
8 fee of two hundred dollars and present to the department satisfactory
9 evidence that the applicant (1) has completed sixty semester hours, or
10 its equivalent, of postsecondary study in an institution of
11 postsecondary education that, if in the United States or its territories,
12 was accredited by a recognized regional accrediting body or, if outside
13 the United States or its territories, was legally chartered to grant
14 postsecondary degrees in the country in which located, (2) has
15 successfully completed a course of study in acupuncture in a program

16 that, at the time of graduation, was in candidate status with or
17 accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the United States
18 Department of Education and included a minimum of [one thousand
19 three hundred fifty] one thousand nine hundred five hours of didactic
20 and clinical training, [five hundred] six hundred sixty of which were
21 clinical, (3) has passed the National Certification Commission for
22 Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine examination required for
23 acupuncture certification or an examination prescribed by the
24 department, and (4) has successfully completed a course in clean
25 needle technique prescribed by the department. Any person
26 successfully completing the education, examination or training
27 requirements of this section in a language other than English shall be
28 deemed to have satisfied the requirement completed in that language.

29 (c) An applicant for licensure as an acupuncturist by endorsement
30 shall present evidence satisfactory to the commissioner of licensure or
31 certification as an acupuncturist, or as a person entitled to perform
32 similar services under a different designation, in another state or
33 jurisdiction whose requirements for practicing in such capacity are
34 equivalent to or higher than those of this state and that there are no
35 disciplinary actions or unresolved complaints pending. Any person
36 completing the requirements of this section in a language other than
37 English shall be deemed to have satisfied the requirements of this
38 section.

39 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this section,
40 the department shall, prior to September 1, 2005, issue a license to any
41 applicant who presents to the department satisfactory evidence that
42 the applicant has (1) earned, or successfully completed requirements
43 for, a master's degree in acupuncture from a program that includes a
44 minimum of one thousand three hundred fifty hours of didactic and
45 clinical training, five hundred of which are clinical, from an institution
46 of higher education accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher
47 Education at the time of the applicant's graduation, (2) passed all
48 portions of the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture

49 and Oriental Medicine acupuncture examination, including the
50 acupuncture portion of the comprehensive written examination in
51 acupuncture, the clean needle technique portion of the comprehensive
52 written examination in acupuncture and the practical examination of
53 point location skills, and (3) successfully completed a course in clean
54 needle technique offered by the Council of Colleges of Acupuncture
55 and Oriental Medicine.

56 (e) Licenses shall be renewed once every two years in accordance
57 with the provisions of subsection (e) of section 19a-88. The fee for
58 renewal shall be two hundred fifty dollars. Each person seeking to
59 have a license renewed shall provide documentation of current
60 acupuncture certification by the National Certification Commission for
61 Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine.

62 (f) No license shall be issued under this section to any applicant
63 against whom professional disciplinary action is pending or who is the
64 subject of an unresolved complaint in this or any other state or
65 territory of the United States.

66 (g) Nothing in section [19a-89c,] 20-206aa or 20-206cc or this section
67 shall be construed to prevent licensed practitioners of the healing arts,
68 as defined in [sections 20-1 and 20-196] section 20-1, physical therapists
69 or dentists from providing care or performing services consistent with
70 accepted standards within their respective professions.

71 (h) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,
72 any person certified by an organization approved by the
73 Commissioner of Public Health may practice auricular acupuncture for
74 the treatment of alcohol and drug abuse, provided the treatment is
75 performed under the supervision of a physician licensed under chapter
76 370 and is performed in either (1) a private free-standing facility
77 licensed by the Department of Public Health for the care or treatment
78 of substance abusive or dependent persons, or (2) a setting operated by
79 the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. The
80 Commissioner of Public Health shall adopt regulations, in accordance

81 with the provisions of chapter 54, to ensure the safe provision of
82 auricular acupuncture within private free-standing facilities licensed
83 by the Department of Public Health for the care or treatment of
84 substance abusive or dependent persons.

85 (i) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,
86 no license to engage in the practice of acupuncture is required of: (1)
87 Students enrolled in a college or program of acupuncture if (A) the
88 college or program is recognized by the Accreditation Commission for
89 Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine or licensed or accredited by the
90 Board of Regents for Higher Education, and (B) the practice that would
91 otherwise require a license is pursuant to a course of instruction or
92 assignments from a licensed instructor and under the supervision of
93 the instructor; or (2) faculty members providing the didactic and
94 clinical training necessary to meet the accreditation standards of the
95 Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine at
96 a college or program recognized by the commission or licensed or
97 accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education. For purposes
98 of this subsection, "licensed instructor" means a faculty member or
99 instructor licensed under this section or otherwise authorized to
100 engage in the practice of acupuncture in this state.

101 (j) No person shall use the title "acupuncturist", or use in connection
102 with his or her name, any letters, words or insignia indicating or
103 implying that such person is a licensed acupuncturist or advertise
104 services as an acupuncturist, unless such person holds a license as an
105 acupuncturist issued pursuant to this section. No person shall
106 represent himself or herself as being certified to practice auricular
107 acupuncture for the treatment of alcohol and drug abuse, or use in
108 connection with his or her name the term "acupuncture detoxification
109 specialist", or the letters "A.D.S." or any letters, words or insignia
110 indicating or implying that such person is certified to practice
111 auricular acupuncture for the treatment of alcohol and drug abuse
112 unless such person is certified in accordance with subsection (h) of this
113 section. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prevent a

114 person from providing care, or performing or advertising services
115 within the scope of such person's license or as otherwise authorized in
116 this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2012</i>	20-206bb

Statement of Purpose:

To update licensing requirements for acupuncturists in accordance with national standards.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]