

HB 2143 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 1/30, 4/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure defines "five-needle protocol" and establishes standards for who can perform the protocol.

Detailed Summary

- Defines "five-needle protocol" for stimulation of specified points on the ear.
- Allows person to provide five-needle protocol if person has completed specified training.
- Exempts person from requirement to obtain a license to practice acupuncture in order to practice five-needle protocol if person has complied with training requirements.

FISCAL: *May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.*

REVENUE: *May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.*

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Distinction of five-needle protocol from other forms of acupuncture
- Benefits of five-needle protocol

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

- Clarifies definition of "five-needle protocol" to include single-use needles.
- Requires Oregon Medical Board (OMB) to establish a registry of individuals who are qualified to provide the five-needle protocol, including adopting rules to establish qualifications for registration, fees, application forms, best practice standards, and a schedule of violations and disciplinary actions.
- Permits OMB to require fingerprints for criminal background checks associated with registration or board investigation.
- Clarifies that licensed acupuncturists may provide the five-needle protocol.
- Specifies process for disciplinary actions.
- Becomes operative March 1, 2026.
- Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

-2 FISCAL: *Fiscal impact issued*

REVENUE: *No revenue impact*

BACKGROUND:

The five-needle protocol was developed in the 1970s at Lincoln Hospital in the South Bronx, New York. The protocol adopted a method established by a neurosurgeon in Hong Kong that had been shown to reduce physical withdrawal symptoms from opium. Stimulating five "points" on the ear (Shen Men, sympathetic, liver, kidney, and lung), the protocol is used reduce drug and alcohol withdrawal, as well as other behavioral health issues.

House Bill 2143 defines the "five needle protocol" and establishes standards for who can perform the protocol in Oregon.