

HB 2143 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Nosse

House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Action Date: 04/01/25

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 9-0-0-0

Yeas: 9 - Diehl, Harbick, Isadore, Javadi, McIntire, Munoz, Nelson, Nosse, Pham H

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Brian Nieubuert, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 1/30, 4/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure defines "five-needle protocol" and requires the Oregon Medical Board (OMB) to establish a registry of individuals qualified to provide the protocol and adopt rules establishing qualifications for registration.

Detailed Summary

- Defines "five-needle protocol" for stimulation of specified points on the ear.
- Requires 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.
- Clarifies that licensed acupuncturists may provide the five-needle protocol.
- Becomes operative March 1, 2026.
- Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

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.

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 A defines the "five needle protocol" and requires the Oregon Medical Board to establish a registry of individuals qualified to provide the protocol and adopt rules establishing qualifications for registration.