

Senate Bill 75

By: Senator James of the 35th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to professions and
2 businesses, so as to authorize certain chiropractors to use acupuncture in the treatment of
3 patients; to provide definitions; to provide for requirements; to provide for the approval of
4 certain educational programs; to delete a certain provision requiring applicants for
5 acupuncture licensure to pass certain written and practical tests; to provide an effective date;
6 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to professions and businesses,
10 is amended by adding at the end of Code Section 43-9-16 a new subsection (j) to read as
11 follows:

12 "(j)(1) As used in this subsection, the term:

13 (A) 'Acupuncture' means a form of therapy developed from traditional and modern
14 Oriental concepts of health care that employs Oriental medical techniques, treatment,
15 and adjunctive therapies for the promotion, maintenance, and restoration of health and
16 the prevention of disease.

17 (B) 'Practice of acupuncture' means the insertion of disposable acupuncture needles and
18 the application of moxibustion to specific areas of the human body based upon Oriental
19 medical principles as a therapeutic modality. Adjunctive therapies within the scope of
20 acupuncture may include manual, mechanical, thermal, electrical, and electromagnetic
21 treatment and the recommendation of dietary guidelines and therapeutic exercise based
22 on traditional Oriental medicine concepts.

23 (2) Any chiropractor who has successfully completed a course of study consisting of not
24 less than 108 hours of study and approved by the Georgia Board of Chiropractic
25 Examiners and who has been certified to use acupuncture by the board may use
26 acupuncture in the treatment of patients. The use of acupuncture by any other

1 chiropractor shall be unlawful. The use of acupuncture by a chiropractor certified by the
 2 board to use acupuncture shall be lawful, shall be within the scope of practice of such
 3 chiropractor, and shall not constitute the practice of medicine."

4 SECTION 2.

5 Said title is further amended by striking subsection (b) of Code Section 43-34-64 in its
 6 entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 "(b) An applicant for a license to practice acupuncture who does not meet the requirement
 8 of paragraph (4) of subsection (a) of this Code section but who does meet the requirements
 9 of paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (5), and (6) of subsection (a) of this Code section and who, in
 10 addition, ~~meets the following requirements may also be eligible for a license to practice~~
 11 ~~acupuncture:~~

12 ~~(1) Have has~~ a minimum of 1,000 hours of training and experience in acupuncture and
 13 ~~have has~~ registered a business in this state, with the expressed purpose of performing
 14 acupuncture, for at least three of the last five years; or ~~have has~~ a minimum of 2,500
 15 hours of training and experience in acupuncture and ~~have has~~ registered a business in this
 16 state, with the expressed purpose of performing acupuncture, for at least one of the last
 17 five years; ~~and may also be eligible for a license to practice acupuncture.~~

18 ~~(2) Successfully pass written and practical tests administered by a national certification~~
 19 ~~agency accredited by the National Organization of Competency Assurance pursuant to~~
 20 ~~a contract entered into by the appropriate state agency as provided by the board.~~

21 This subsection shall be automatically repealed on July 15, 2001."

22 SECTION 3.

23 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
 24 without such approval.

25 SECTION 4.

26 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.