

FISCAL NOTE
Requested by Legislative Council
01/20/2015

Amendment to: SB 2191

- 1 A. **State fiscal effect:** *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

	2013-2015 Biennium		2015-2017 Biennium		2017-2019 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues				\$0		
Expenditures			\$3,000			
Appropriations			\$3,000			

- 1 B. **County, city, school district and township fiscal effect:** *Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.*

	2013-2015 Biennium	2015-2017 Biennium	2017-2019 Biennium
Counties		\$0	
Cities		\$0	
School Districts		\$0	
Townships		\$0	

- 2 A. **Bill and fiscal impact summary:** *Provide a brief summary of the measure, including description of the provisions having fiscal impact (limited to 300 characters).*

The administrative rules hearing, publication of the administrative rules hearing, and any fees incurred with the attorney general's office.

- B. **Fiscal impact sections:** *Identify and provide a brief description of the sections of the measure which have fiscal impact. Include any assumptions and comments relevant to the analysis.*

The administrative rules hearing, publication of the administrative rules hearing, and any fees incurred with the attorney general's office.

3. **State fiscal effect detail:** *For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:*

- A. **Revenues:** *Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.*

Currently, we can't determine revenues due to the fact that we won't know what the licensing fees are until we start to draft the administrative rules. We anticipate that licenses would be less than \$300 dollars biannually.

- B. **Expenditures:** *Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.*

The expenditures would be to offset the cost of the administrative rules hearing and any costs incurred with the attorney general's office. This is a relatively new small professions boards with different professions having different fees. We don't have enough reserves yet to potentially handle disciplinary actions across multiple professions. The board members are all uncompensated and the drafting, discussing, and voting upon rules takes many hours and many meetings. As more professions and licenses are regulated by the ND BIHC we will have to incur the cost of part-time help.

- C. **Appropriations:** *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency and fund affected. Explain the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations. Indicate whether the appropriation or a part of the appropriation is included in the executive budget or relates to a continuing appropriation.*

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Name: Lezlie Link

Agency: ND Board of Integrative Health Care

Telephone: 701 595 1595

Date Prepared: 01/21/2015

FISCAL NOTE
Requested by Legislative Council
01/20/2015

Bill/Resolution No.: SB 2191

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Name: Lezlie Link

Agency: ND Board of Integrative Health Care

Telephone: 701 595 1595

Date Prepared: 01/21/2015

2015 SENATE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

SB 2191

2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Missouri River Room, State Capitol

SB 2191
1/23/2015
Job # 22454

☐ Subcommittee
☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new subsection to section 43-17-02 and chapter 43-61 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the regulation of acupuncturists; to amend and reenact sections 43-17-41, 43-57-01, 43-57-03, 43-57-06, 43-57-07, and 43-57-11 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to duties of acupuncturists and the board of integrative health care; and to provide a penalty.

Minutes:

Attachments 1-4

Chairman Dever: Opened the hearing on SB 2191.

Senator Unruh, District 33: Testified as sponsor of the bill. I will not try to explain to you what the bill does but there are many experts behind me that will do a much better job of giving you the details of it.

(1:33) Chairman Dever: Who will be doing the explanation?

Senator Unruh: Blake Blowers will be.

Chairman Dever: Have you experienced acupuncture?

Senator Unruh: I have and I am a fan as well. I think it works.

Senator Holmberg, District 17: Testified as a sponsor of the bill. I have put this bill in in the past and it has typically gone to Human Services and the Senate has passed an acupuncture bill in the past, but it typically ran into trouble because they did not have a state board to oversee the profession. Now I understand that there is a board and that goes a long way to take care of the concerns of the legislature in the past.

(3:40) Chairman Dever: I remember when you put the first bill in there was one acupuncturist in Fargo and one in Grand Forks.

Senator Holmberg: Right.

(4:35) Blake Blowers, Acupuncturist, Bismarck: See Attachment #1 for testimony in support of the bill and to explain the bill.

(18:25) Senator Cook: I am looking at Pg. 5 line 21, the bill makes the statement that therapies used by an acupuncturist are not exclusive privilege of an acupuncturists and their use by individuals not licensed to practice acupuncture is not prohibited. Then starting on line 28 you say that an individual may not practice any form of acupuncture with a current acupuncture license. It seems to me you are saying two different things.

Blake Blowers: My understanding of that is that we are saying that if someone else is licensed to practice acupuncture under their own board, that we are not taking these definitions to be exclusively ours if they are already allowed to use them. But, if they are not licensed under the chiropractic board, medical board, or the board of integrative health to do such therapies then that would be something that we would not to be taking place.

Senator Cook: Do you think it is clear that is what you are trying to say?

Blake Blowers: I do, according to the people who created this.

Chairman Dever: The following sentence does not restrict or apply to any other professional license. It is kind of confusing.

Senator Cook: I think there has to be some clarification to the statement on Subsection 1.

Chairman Dever: If another professional is licensed under their own board to practice acupuncture, are they restricted by this from using the title of acupuncturist?

Blake Blowers: Yes that is what we are asking for. They would still be able to designate themselves with the standards. The only two titles that we are asking for is acupuncturist and the abbreviation of L.Ac., which stands for licensed acupuncturist.

Chairman Dever: And the exclusive use of those terms?

Blake Blowers: Correct.

Senator Davison: I appreciate the thoroughness of your explanation. Could you give me the background of the Board of Integrative Healthcare?

Blake Blowers: That board was formed last session. I do not have a better explanation behind that.

Chairman Dever: The reason we created that was because there are some professions that there are only a few in the state so there would be a board to encompass them all.

Senator Davison: Is acupuncture reimbursable by insurance companies?

Blake Blowers: No, and that is not something we are looking for right now.

Senator Davison: Clarified that the wording was to clarify the levels of training between an acupuncturist and a licensed acupuncturist.

Blake Blowers: I think that is a fair statement. The title should represent the education.

Senator Nelson: On line 30, pg. 5, you have L.Ac., but when I look at attachment 2 and 4 of your testimony it is listed without the periods so, what is the legal abbreviation for a licensed acupuncturist? I think the periods are going to get forgotten 80% of the time, but if it is in code that is how it has to be.

Blake Blowers: I don't have a good answer to that now. I have always referenced it with the periods but certainly that is something that we need to have clarified.

Chairman Dever: Are there people practicing acupuncture in the state that would not qualify under this bill?

Blake Blowers: Not to my knowledge. We know that this profession is growing and we are anticipating it happening in the future.

Senator Flakoll: What are the penalties of practicing without a license, and what teeth are there if they call themselves an acupuncturist and they are not with the new law?

Blake Blowers: As far as the penalties, it would be a Class B misdemeanor. I would assume that the route that we would take if it is reported or we discovered someone was doing that, it would be reported to the board of integrative health and from there it would be acted upon. As for using Licensed Acupuncturist, it is about being able be recognized with one single word.

Senator Flakoll: With procedures, there is always the risk of something not going according to plans so what do you have as your requirement as far as insurance?

Blake Blowers: The type of insurance that I carry, there is an insurance company that is just for acupuncturists. So the type of malpractice insurance that I have is \$1 million and \$3 million coverage. Part of what this bill would do for us as acupuncturists is make that type of coverage easier to access. They like to have their acupuncturists be licensed in order to get that insurance coverage. Generally they have met all of those other requirements and the risks have been minimized. I have opted to carry that insurance even though there is nothing in the state requiring it. They often put in addendums because we do not have a board.

Chairman Dever: Is there a seat on the integrative healthcare board for an acupuncturist.

Blake Blowers: Yes, they have anticipated that.

Chairman Dever: Under what circumstances would someone seek out an acupuncturist?

Blake Blowers: A lot of times it is word of mouth. Treatment is often sought for pain.

Chairman Dever: Why the difference in training of a chiropractor that does acupuncture and someone with your training?

Blake Blowers: I think it varies among chiropractors. I know of some that take and try and practice acupuncture within the realm of Chinese medicine as we have been taught so they are taking into account a lot more than what I feel a 100hr course would allow. But, a lot of times there are chiropractors that are doing it specifically as an adjunct to help work with muscle areas and enhance the treatments they are doing. I don't see them being any kind of danger we just want the differentiation to be clear in our level of training.

Chairman Dever: The 100 hours that you reference is in addition to what chiropractors already have training otherwise to do?

Blake Blowers: It would seem that way. They have a great background in all sorts of anatomy and physiology. The difference that has to be recognized is that the training in acupuncture theory is a completely different paradigm. There is a reason that we go to school for about 3 years to learn that and understand the entire process.

(Discussion of difference between Chiropractors that do acupuncture and an Acupuncturist)

(38:05) See Attachments # 2 for additional testimony.

(38:50) Stephanie Belohlavek-Geiger, Veteran, Mandan Resident: See Attachment #3 for testimony in support of the bill.

(43:35) Chairman Dever: What is the VA doing for you related to this acupuncture?

Stephanie Belohlavek-Geiger: When I first went the VA for my RA I left with 6 different meds. When I went back the third time I had 17. My body can't take any more medication. When your only option is to take medicine and your body doesn't like it, there is little left. My choices were chiropractic care and acupuncture which of course I did not try until 4 years too late. You cannot repair damage that is already done.

Chairman Dever: You work at Bismarck Vet center, is that the federal VA?

Stephanie Belohlavek-Geiger: We are federal. Our program is called readjustment counseling services, so we fall under the umbrella of the VA, but we are not under health side of the VA.

Chairman Dever: Pretty compelling testimony.

Stephanie Belohlavek-Geiger: (Talked about initial experience at the acupuncturist again)

Chairman Dever: What brought you to a decision to go to an acupuncturist?

Stephanie Belohlavek-Geiger: The methotrexate was literally killing me. My liver was no longer functioning. The Mayo Clinic would not see me anymore because they could not agree with what was going on with me. The doctors here in Bismarck would not see me anymore. It was trial and error. I have a very good chiropractor that is also trained in acupuncture. His thought was that a trained acupuncturist would be the best option.

Chairman Dever: I could not feel it when I had it.

Stephanie Belohlavek-Geiger: (talked more about experiences)

Chairman Dever: The VA does not cover anything with acupuncture?

Stephanie Belohlavek-Geiger: No they do not.

(48:55) Lezlie Link, Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine: Attachment #4 in neutral position on the bill.

Chairman Dever: So there is a slot designated on the board for acupuncturists or do we need to create one?

Lezlie Link: How the board was created allows a group to petition. They gave us their bill before October so that we could meet and make a decision. We do not have control of who comes underneath the board. If this bill comes forward there would be a licensed acupuncturist joining the board. That way there would always be representation on that board for each individual profession. The statutes in the bill for the creation of the integrative health care board allow for sub groups and sub committees if we needed one. To keep numbers odd for voting purposes, there can be a lay member of the community. All positions are appointed by the Governor and currently we have myself, as a doctor of naturopathic medicine, a registered pharmacist, and advanced practice nurse practitioner, and then we have a medical doctor. We do not have a public member quite yet. We license about 20 people currently. We would be looking at adding somewhere between 10 and 12 licenses. I was asked to do a fiscal note and I had no way of anticipating what revenues would be from licenses because that is something that we would decide during statutes/ administrative rule. One of the problems is that when someone brings a bill and they come under our board, each new profession needs an administrative rules hearing. It is a cost issue with new licenses potentially every session to have a new professional group coming under this board and we would have to do another administrative rules hearing. We have to advertise in all the papers. I have to go to administrative rules hearing and testify etc. So it does a cost issue to repeat that process every time. That is the reason for the \$3000 as an expenditure to the general budget.

Chairman Dever: Is the structure of this bill consistent with the other professions?

Lezlie Link: The only thing that is not consistent is when they would renew their licensing. I understood that they would be in the even years and the other two in the board would be in the odd years and it would be nice if they would be licensed in the even years since we are such a small board.

Chairman Dever: Closed the hearing on SB 2191.

2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

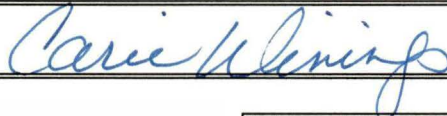
Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Missouri River Room, State Capitol

SB 2191
2/19/2015
Job # 24114

☐ Subcommittee
☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Attachments 1

Chairman Dever: Opened SB 2191 for committee discussion.

Senator Flakoll: See Attachment #1 for proposed amendment.

Committee Discussion: The committee reviewed their notes on the bill and discussed the abbreviated title of a licensed acupuncturist. They also wanted to make sure that it is not the same abbreviation of a Licensed Addiction Counselor.

Senator Nelson: Moved Amendments proposed. (Attachment #1)

Senator Poolman: Seconded.

A Roll Call Vote Was Taken: 7 yeas, 0 nays, 0 absent.

Motion Carried.

Senator Cook: Moved to amend and remove line 23 after acupuncturist, through line 24 to last word in the sentence.

Senator Poolman: Seconded.

A Roll Call Vote Was Taken: 7 yeas, 0 nays, 0 absent.

Motion Carried.

Senator Flakoll: Moved a Do Pass As Amended.

Senator Davison: Seconded.

A Roll Call Vote Was Taken: 7 yeas, 0 nays, 0 absent.

Motion Carried.

Senator Flakoll will carry the bill.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SB 2191

Page 5, line 30, replace "Acupuncturist" with "Licensed Acupuncturist"

Page 5, line 30 replace "L.Ac." with "LAc"

JD
2/19/15

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2191

Page 5, line 23, remove ". and their use, practice, prescription, or administration by individuals not licensed"

Page 5, line 24, remove "to practice acupuncture is not prohibited by this chapter"

Page 5, line 30, after the first set of underscored quotation marks insert "Licensed"

Page 5, line 30, replace "L.Ac." with "LAc"

Renumber accordingly

Date: 2/19
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2191

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

☐ Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: Sen. Flakoll Amendment
Attach #1 2/19

Recommendation: ☒ Adopt Amendment
☐ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Without Committee Recommendation
☐ As Amended ☐ Rerefer to Appropriations
☐ Place on Consent Calendar
Other Actions: ☐ Reconsider ☐ _____

Motion Made By Nelson Seconded By Poolman

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Chairman Dever	✓		Senator Marcellais	✓	
Vice Chairman Poolman	✓		Senator Nelson	✓	
Senator Cook	✓				
Senator Davison	✓				
Senator Flakoll	✓				

Total (Yes) 7 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Date: 2/19
Roll Call Vote #: 2

2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2191

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

☐ Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: Remove Line 23 After Accupunct.

Recommendation: ☒ Adopt Amendment
☐ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Without Committee Recommendation
☐ As Amended ☐ Rerefer to Appropriations
☐ Place on Consent Calendar

Other Actions: ☐ Reconsider ☐ _____

Motion Made By Code Seconded By Poolman

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Chairman Dever	✓		Senator Marcellais	✓	
Vice Chairman Poolman	✓		Senator Nelson	✓	
Senator Cook	✓				
Senator Davison	✓				
Senator Flakoll	✓				

Total (Yes) 7 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Date: 2/19
Roll Call Vote #: 3

2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2191

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

☐ Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: 15.0619.01001

Recommendation: ☐ Adopt Amendment
☒ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Without Committee Recommendation
☒ As Amended ☐ Rerefer to Appropriations
☐ Place on Consent Calendar
Other Actions: ☐ Reconsider ☐ _____

Motion Made By Flakoll Seconded By Dawson

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Chairman Dever	✓		Senator Marcellais	✓	
Vice Chairman Poolman	✓		Senator Nelson	✓	
Senator Cook	✓				
Senator Davison	✓				
Senator Flakoll	✓				

Total (Yes) 7 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Flakoll

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2191: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Sen. Dever, Chairman)
recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends
DO PASS (7 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2191 was placed
on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 5, line 23, remove ", and their use, practice, prescription, or administration by
individuals not licensed"

Page 5, line 24, remove "to practice acupuncture is not prohibited by this chapter"

Page 5, line 30, after the first set of underscored quotation marks insert "Licensed"

Page 5, line 30, replace "L.Ac." with "LAc"

Renumber accordingly

2015 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

SB 2191


2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Fort Union, State Capitol

SB 2191
3/12/2015
24779

☐ Subcommittee
☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to duties of acupuncturists and the board of integrative health care; and to provide a penalty

Minutes:

Attachments 1-4

Chairman Kasper opened the hearing on SB 2191.

Blake Blowers, Lobbyist for the ND Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine, appeared in support. Attachment 1. (1:28-13:50) Handed out some other written testimonies from Dr. Lezlie Link, Head of the Board of Integrative Health Care, and Adriane Maag, Masters of Science in Oriental Medicine, Diplomate of Acupuncture. Attachments 2-3.

Rep. Laning (15:56) How many members do you expect to have in your organization?

Blake Blowers Right now we have 10.

Rep. Laning How do you see your representation on the Integrative Health Care Board change?

Blake Blowers Currently there are 5 members on that board. When they created that board, they anticipated an acupuncturist joining them. From our profession alone, there would be one, and then the other practitioners are a naturopathic doctor, a physician, a pharmacist, a nurse practitioner, and a music therapist.

Rep. Laning You would be one of those 5?

Blake Blowers One of the 6.

Vice Chair Rohr On first page of your testimony, you have...determine if an exam from another state or country is equivalent. How frequently would the other country be an issue?

Blake Blowers I don't anticipate that would be very likely. There are schools in China and throughout the world. It is possible that we could get somebody that would show up and have taken an exam like that. I would be confident that the organization like the NCCAOM would have some kind of reference for us to evaluate whether or not that test would be sufficient, and if we did not think it was, then, of course, they would be required to take the National Certification Commission's test.

Vice Chair Rohr How many schools are there for acupuncture?

Blake Blowers I don't know the exact number. I believe it is in the 30s across the United States.

Vice Chair Rohr Would the physicians who do acupuncture as an adjunct to their practice be under this board?

Blake Blowers They would be under their own board.

Vice Chair Rohr I was looking at Minnesota's curriculum. Is this clinical practice under supervision, or do you go to another country?

Blake Blowers That is all supervised from the very beginning. We start out by observing other students who are being supervised by a practitioner or teacher. As we progress throughout the program and have learned the appropriate skills to be able to provide a treatment, we are still supervised all the way until our graduation.

Vice Chair Rohr Do you use acupuncture needles?

Blake Blowers No, we do not. The standard of practice is a one-time use surgical grade stainless steel.

Rep. B. Koppelman How are you going to police the industry?

Blake Blowers There would not be a specific person who would go out and check the clinics to make sure that an acupuncturist is following the clean need technique or whatever might be listed there. The responsibility is to make sure that your practitioners understand the rules and regulations. Based off of that, they are held to that standard. If they are not doing that, we would assume it would eventually be reported by another practitioner who is seeking treatment or perhaps a patient.

Rep. B. Koppelman Is there any initial setup when you start a practice? Does the Health Department come in and check things over?

Blake Blowers I am not aware of anyone coming in and make sure, for example, hazardous waste containers are in place or something else along those lines. We would expect that they would have the credentials and full understanding of the standards.

Rep. Steiner Are you touching a nerve to relieve pain when you insert a needle?

Blake Blowers We sometimes go into the body of the muscle or areas that have higher concentrations of nerve endings. The main idea behind acupuncture from a western perspective is to stimulate the central nervous system, and by doing that, we initiate a healing response.

Rep. Steiner What would be the cost? How long is a treatment, and what is the cost?

Blake Blowers That would vary among the acupuncturists. Some offer different options of treatment. For example, there is something called community action puncture, which there is not quite as much privacy with that. They can vary the rate from \$25-\$65 a treatment. Personally, an initial treatment with an exam is \$83 and then each additional treatment is \$53.

Vice Chair Rohr Could you talk about referrals?

Blake Blowers Referrals from both sides are absolutely part of what we work with.

Vice Chair Rohr Is there any other diagnostic equipment or ancillary services in your clinic?

Blake Blowers Not as far as I know of.

Rep. Amerman Would you explain what adjunctive therapy is.

Blake Blowers Adjunctive therapy is something that they would be doing to help support their primary type of therapy. For example, a chiropractor who is going to be giving a chiropractic adjustment and the muscles in a specific area were really tight, so maybe they would put a couple acupuncture needles into that muscle to help loosen that and then be able to provide a better adjustment.

Rep. Amerman Page 5, Line 26 states that effective January 1, 2016, an individual may not practice any form of acupuncture without a current acupuncture license issued by the board. Your chiropractor that sticks a couple of needles couldn't practice unless he received a license?

Blake Blowers Page 5, Line 20 is the exemption for that. As long as they are performing acupuncture under the scope of their board, then we have no regulation over that.

Rep. Seibel Are your services currently reimbursable through medical insurance?

Blake Blowers No, they are not.

Rep. Mooney How much are the dues for your board?

Blake Blowers Those have not been established yet, and those would happen during the administrative hearings of the board. There is a budget of \$3,000. The way that we would determine what the dues would be would be based on evaluation of surrounding states and

what they are doing and take into account what our costs are and come up with something reasonable.

Rep. Mooney Do you have any sense of how many acupuncturists might be interested?

Blake Blowers Currently there are definitely 10 in the state.

Vice Chair Rohr You also indicated some programs are Doctorate prepared. Why if your credentials are LAC, why aren't you indicating that you have a master's or a PhD?

Blake Blowers It is fairly common for an acupuncturist to list MS after their name. We are trying to go for some kind of unified title.

Rep. Mooney Do South Dakota and Montana recognize acupuncturists?

Blake Blowers South Dakota does not. Montana has one of the best regulations, one that requires the most out of an acupuncturist.

Rep. Mooney Does that allow for reciprocity? If you had someone from Montana who wanted to come and practice in North Dakota?

Blake Blowers They would still have to be licensed in North Dakota once our board is established.

Rep. M. Johnson Explain the chart that shows no for certification for Montana.

Blake Blowers It says no for the certification, but they still require a couple of other categories. As far as the acupuncture part of things are concerned, there are three main tests--point location, theory of acupuncture, and acupuncture treatment strategy. We would be in line with that.

Rep. M. Johnson What do those categories mean?

Blake Blowers Practice acupuncture are those that have a board or licensure. FOMM is fundamentals of the medicine. They are asking you a question as far as a specific health concern and how you would treat it.

Rep. M. Johnson If they don't require certification, who is asking the question?

Blake Blowers I need to get you the definition on that certification required. Every one of these is one of the tests from the National Certification Commission. Some of those others could be classified as a certificate, and that is what I believe they are talking about here. I will find out for you, though.

Rep. M. Johnson The state might require you to have certain proficiency without certification in some things?

Blake Blowers If they are going to be doing acupuncture, they will have to have passed the college or university in order to do that. In order to set for the national certification, they would have to be able to show that they passed one of those programs. Certification is something different than what this is talking about. I can get you the information to clear that up.

Rep. Louser If you get licensed under a board, is it your intent to seek reimbursement from health insurance providers?

Blake Blowers As far as I am aware, it is not our intention to try and go for the next step, to try and go for insurance. Our primary objective right now is to get something in place, for licensure so we can call ourselves something, and it is going to be public protection.

Chairman Kasper Page 6, Line 25-26, are you imposing a residency requirement to be an acupuncturist in North Dakota?

Blake Blowers It wouldn't allow for a grandfather situation. Everyone who is here right now that is part of our association that wants this to go through is already a resident.

Chairman Kasper That is then imposing some type of a residency requirement to be licensed, or is it the other way around?

Blake Blowers I believe that if somebody wants to be licensed under board and say they currently live in Florida and just want a license in North Dakota, they would be allowed to apply for licensure.

Chairman Kasper Subject to meeting the requirements of the bill?

Blake Blowers Yes.

Chairman Kasper Page 3, what are you thinking about fees?

Blake Blowers It would be similar to our surrounding states, Minnesota and Montana. It would be somewhere in the range of \$100-\$400 either a year or every two years. The highest I have seen is close to \$500 a year. Colorado has \$200 every two years. Montana was \$100 every other year.

Chairman Kasper With the small number of potential members you have right now, you are not going to be generating a lot of revenue. Has that been a discussion with your folks about setting up the board and charging huge fees in order to have money to function as a board?

Blake Blowers I have not had that discussion. I am not sure if it would be a collective fee or amongst everyone who is part of the board or specific for each group. I will find that out for you.

Stephanie Belohlavek-Geiger, Mandan resident and Readjustment Counselor, Bismarck Vet Center, appeared. Attachment 4. (47:30-52:22)

Rep. Louser How often do you go for treatment?

Stephanie Belohlavek-Geiger It is almost immediate relief.

Rep. Louser Is it periodic? Is it scheduled? How do you seek treatment? I am comparing it to medication.

Stephanie Belohlavek-Geiger There is no descriptive to the medication compared to the acupuncture. The acupuncture is as needed.

Chairman Kasper Is there a maintenance program like a chiropractor? Are you able to have the relief you have with just one treatment?

Stephanie Belohlavek-Geiger When I first started seeing Blake, he thought he would need to see me 3 times a week at least for a couple weeks. Within the first week, I only saw him twice. I saw him twice the next week and then we went down to once a week. I don't know if I am the norm or not. I just know how it affected me.

No opposition.

The hearing was closed.

Rep. Amerman made a motion for a DO PASS.

Vice Chair Rohr seconded the motion.

Rep. B. Koppelman I can follow up on this for my own sake. I wonder if the initial set up would fall under the Health Department's purview.

Chairman Kasper When you get to a point of a board, you want to know the physical setup where the acupuncturists are practicing to be sure it is appropriate. That would be the board's responsibility.

Rep. Mooney I don't know if the lack of the designation of the application fee is going to be problematic going forward or not, but just as a point of reference.

Chairman Kasper I agree. Being it is set up new and because it is such a small number in the state, they have to be careful when they set their fees.

A roll call vote was taken. 14 Yeas, 0 Nays, 0 Absent.

Vice Chair Rohr will carry the bill.

Date: 3-12-15
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2191

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

☐ Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: _____

Recommendation: ☐ Adopt Amendment
☒ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Without Committee Recommendation
☐ As Amended ☐ Rerefer to Appropriations
☐ Place on Consent Calendar
Other Actions: ☐ Reconsider ☐ _____

Motion Made By Amerman Seconded By Rohr

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Jim Kasper	X		Rep. Bill Amerman	X	
Vice Chair Karen Rohr	X		Rep. Gail Mooney	X	
Rep. Jason Dockter	X		Rep. Mary Schneider	X	
Rep. Mary C. Johnson	X		Rep. Kris Wallman	X	
Rep. Karen Karls	X				
Rep. Ben Koppelman	X				
Rep. Vernon Laning	X				
Rep. Scott Louser	X				
Rep. Jay Seibel	X				
Rep. Vicky Steiner	X				

Total (Yes) 14 No 0

Absent _____

Floor Assignment Rohr

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2191, as engrossed: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Kasper, Chairman) recommends DO PASS (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed SB 2191 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2015 TESTIMONY

SB 2191

SB 2191 Acupuncture licensing bill
Blake Blowers, NDAAOM Lobbyist
Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Hearing
January 23, 2015

1
Pg 1

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Government and Veterans Affairs Committee,

My name is Blake Blowers. I'm an acupuncturist in Bismarck. I'm registered as lobbyist #167 for the North Dakota Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine. Senate Bill 2191 has been introduced on our behalf, and I have been asked to explain the bill.

Senate Bill 2191 is a licensing bill for acupuncturists. The four main objectives of this bill are to establish licensing requirements, define a scope of practice, create titles, and establish regulation under the board of Integrative Health Care.

Section 1 (page 1)

The change proposed in this section exempts acupuncturists from NDCC chapter 43-17 which regulates Physicians. An exception is necessary to create a new section of code specific to acupuncturists.

Section 2 (page 1)

This section creates an amendment to the Physicians chapter. It defines that acupuncturists must comply with reporting requirements when a patient's trauma appears to be from a violent crime, possible violation of criminal law in this state. If a report is made concerning a victim of domestic violence, or sexual assault, the individual must be provided with referral information and reported to proper agencies in their county.

Section 3 (page 2)

Section 3 places licensed acupuncturists under the regulation of the Board of Integrative Health Care. The board of Integrative Health Care has anticipated acupuncturists joining them since the creation of the board in the 2011 legislative session. It also defines that the use of the word "Board" from this point forward will imply the Board of Integrative Health Care, unless stated otherwise.

Section 4 (pages 2-3)

This section outlines the powers and duties of the board - such as establishing a scope of practice for acupuncturists, determining if an exam from another state or country is equivalent for reciprocity, establishing educational standards, and setting fees. They also will produce a list of all licensed individuals and make it available upon request.

The board will also establish continuing education requirements and set requirements to allow supervised student practice.

Section 5 (page 3)

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States that the board shall issue a license to an applicant who fulfills the qualifications listed within the chapter regulating acupuncturists.

Section 6 (pages 3-4)

Deals with license renewal and continuing education. It indicates that the 2 year renewal cycle for acupuncturists begins and ends on different dates than naturopaths and music therapists – to spread out the license renewals for this multidisciplinary board. It also describes the conditions of renewal based on payment and continuing education requirements being met.

It also describes what actions will take place if requirements are not met, and it provides an exception to anyone who doesn't meet the deadline for application due to a hardship.

Section 7 (page 4)

This section clarifies that it is a class B misdemeanor if someone violates the chapters pertaining to Acupuncturists, the board of Integrated Health Care, Naturopaths, or Music Therapists.

Section 8 (page 4-5)

Begins the creation of the chapter for acupuncturists.

Page 5 (line 1) defines acupuncture and provides a list of therapies that would be considered the practice of acupuncture. The therapies listed would be used as they are taught within an approved acupuncture program.

Page 5 (line 7) states that an acupuncturist is a person who has been granted licensure by the board of Integrative Health Care.

Page 5 (line 9) Is one of the most important parts of this bill, as it establishes the level of training expected of an individual who applies for an acupuncture license under the board of Integrative Health Care.

This requirement separates acupuncture specialists from practitioners who simply use acupuncture as an adjunct therapy. Currently, there are a two different ways a person can complete acupuncture training.

To be licensed as a specialist under this law, applicants must have graduated from a graduate level program at a college or university, which prepares the practitioner with 2300 to 2500 hours of course work and supervised clinical training in acupuncture. This is the level of training completed by the members of our Association.

The other route is to take a several weekend course in acupuncture that provides 100 to 300 hours of

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training. Typically, the practitioners who go this route are specialists in another area of health care such as allopathic medicine (MD/DO) or chiropractic. These individuals would not be licensed under this law, they have requirements they have to meet under their own licensing laws.

The training for an acupuncturist from an institution as it is required in this section, would provide approximately 24 times more training than that of the most basic acupuncture course required of other professionals. It would also require that each applicant has graduated from a nationally accredited Master's or Doctoral degree program, which would be a 2.5 to 4 year program.

Part a. and b. of this section relate to accreditation of a school. The school will be recognized by the US Department of Education as an accredited institution of higher learning and will also have its acupuncture program specially accredited.

The national accreditation agency for acupuncture is the Accreditation Committee for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine. They are recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a "specialized and professional" accrediting agency with the primary purpose being to establish comprehensive educational and institutional requirements for acupuncture and Oriental medicine programs, and to accredit programs and institutions that meet these requirements. All of the reputable colleges and universities in the U.S. are either fully accredited or have candidacy for accreditation from this organization.

Page 5 (line 20) Is an exemption that states some of the therapies listed in the definition of acupuncture are not the exclusive privilege of acupuncturists and their use by any individual who is allowed to legally do so in this state, by their board, is not being prohibited by this chapter. This is an important provision, since it clearly indicates it will not affect those who are already practicing acupuncture under the scope of their own license, such as chiropractors and medical doctors.

Page 5 (Line 27) Chapter 43-61-03 is the beginning of the title creation relating to acupuncture and establishes a date the title will go into effect.

This chapter states that an individual may not practice any form of acupuncture without a license issued by the board. It also states that the titles "Acupuncturist" and "L. Ac." will be the title given to those who are licensed as acupuncturists by the board of Integrative Health Care, and anyone who is not licensed by the board and uses those terms or initials as identification without being licensed is engaging in the practice of acupuncture without a license.

Title creation is important because of the tremendous difference in education between those who have completed graduate level acupuncture training from an accredited university or college, and other professionals who provide acupuncture as an adjunct therapy.

Page 6

(Line 3) 43-61-04 requires anyone wishing to practice acupuncture, use the title acupuncturist or the

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Blake Blowers, NDAAOM Lobbyist
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abbreviation "L. Ac." to follow the board of Integrative Health Care approved application process.

(Line 7) 43-61-05 defines the terms and conditions required of an applicant for licensure. An applicant must be of good moral character, meet the education and testing requirements, and submit all the documents for application set forth by the board of Integrative Health Care.

Part a. requires the completion of a graduate level acupuncture program and would generally contain courses such as those listed in attachment #1.

Part b. ensures the applicant has successfully completed the board exams offered by the NCCAOM acupuncture board exam as outlined in attachment #3.

We're emphasizing the NCCAOM boards because a significant amount of education in acupuncture training is required to even qualify for these board exams. The NCCAOM is also our national certification agency and by requiring NCCAOM involvement, the licensee must stay current with the NCCAOM standards of meeting or exceeding continuing education and CPR requirements.

This section also requires a person have the physical, mental and professional capability to practice acupuncture and a history free of anything that would constitute grounds for disciplinary action by the board.

Page 6 (Line 25) 43-61-06 creates a narrow exception clause to consider licensure based on the education and experience for a few practitioners in our state who took a national acupuncture exam before the current NCCAOM certification standards were established. This is not a grandfather clause.

Page 7 (Line 4) 43-61-07 gives the board the ability to grant licensing reciprocity to an individual who is licensed in another state, if their test requirement is the same as North Dakota's. The individual would also have to meet all other requirements of the board for licensure.

Page 7 (Line 17) 43-61-08 Defines the practice of acupuncture in terms of what can and cannot be done by an acupuncturist.

Part 1, subcategories a. and b. states that acupuncturists will not prescribe or administer any therapy that is not part of the practice of acupuncture.

Part 2, subcategories a. and b. Identifies patient education, botanical medicine, acupuncture, and several other techniques, which are commonly taught at the graduate level to be the therapies an acupuncturist can use as part of an acupuncture treatment.

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Page 8

(Line 1) 43-61-09 states that an acupuncturist has the same duties as a licensed physician with regard to public health when it comes to reporting within the limits of their scope of practice.

(Line 6) 43-61-10 allows for the employment of an acupuncturist by a hospital.

Blake Blower's Attachments

1. A typical accredited Acupuncture/Oriental Medicine master's degree curriculum. 3,180 hours. 4 years. http://www.aaaom.edu/programs/masters_degree.html
2. A typical Chiropractic Acupuncture Certificate program curriculum - 105 hours. 7 weekends. <http://www.nwhealth.edu/conted/seminars/acucert2.html>
3. NCCAOM's eligibility requirements to sit for the national boards.
<http://www.nccaom.org/applicants/eligibility-requirements>
4. CCAOM's comparison chart of acupuncture education programs.
<http://www.ccaom.org/downloads/KnowYourAcupuncturist.pdf>
5. CCAOM's Clean Needle Technique Course Overview.
<http://www.ccaom.org/cntprogram.asp>

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AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ACUPUNCTURE AND ORIENTAL MEDICINE

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ABOUT PROGRAMS

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 Massage Certificate
 Community Education
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EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS
Master's Degree Program

The total master's degree program curriculum of 3180 hours (182 credits) includes 1740 hours of didactic instruction on acupuncture and Oriental medicine, 540 hours of bioscience-related material, and 900 hours of clinical observation and experience. The full-time program is designed to run twelve total trimesters, with fifteen weeks per trimester. The maximum time for program completion is eight years, taking eight credits per trimester minimum. It is also possible to accelerate through the program and complete it in nine trimesters.

Courses marked with an asterisk (*) are electives.
 CLICK HERE FOR A LIST OF COURSE DESCRIPTIONS.
 CLICK HERE FOR A LIST OF COURSE TEXTBOOKS.

First Year**First Trimester**

Course #	Course Title	Hours	Credits	Hours/Week
1101	TCM Theory	60	4	4
1102	Meridians	30	2	2
1103	TCM & Chinese Culture	30	2	2
1104	Anatomy & Physiology I	30	2	2
1105	Western Medical Terminology	30	2	2
1106	Surface Anatomy	30	2	2
1107	Tai Chi	30	2	2
1108	Clinical Observation I	30	1	2
	Total	270	17	18

Second Trimester

Course #	Course Title	Hours	Credits	Hours/Week
1201	TCM Diagnostics I	30	2	2
1202	Point Location I	60	4	4
1203	TCM Pathology	30	2	2
1204	Anatomy & Physiology II	30	2	2
1205	Microbiology	30	2	2
1206	TCM Dietary Therapy I	30	2	2
1207	Healing Qi Gong	30	2	2
1208	Clinic Observation II	30	1	2
	Total	270	17	18

Third Trimester

Course #	Course Title	Hours	Credits	Hours/Week
1301	TCM Diagnostics II	30	2	2
1302	Point Location II	60	4	4
1303	Clinical Chinese Herbology I	60	4	4
1304	Anatomy & Physiology III	60	4	4
1305	TCM Dietary Therapy II	30	2	2
1306	Clinic Observation III	30	1	2
	Total	270	17	18

Second Year**First Trimester**

Course #	Course Title	Hours	Credits	Hours/Week
2101	TCM Diagnostics III	60	4	4
2102	Acupuncture Prescriptions	60	4	4
2103	Clinical Chinese Herbology II	60	4	4
2104	Western Medical Pathology I	30	2	2
2105	Medical Chinese*	30	2	2
2106	Clinic Observation IV	30	1	2
	Total	240	15	16

Second Trimester

Course #	Course Title	Hours	Credits	Hours/Week
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**Information Request**

**American
 Academy of
 Acupuncture
 & Oriental
 Medicine**

1925 W County Rd B2
 Roseville, MN 55113

Directions

Attachment #1

2201	OSHA/CNT	15	1	1
2202	Acupuncture Techniques	60	4	4
2203	Clinical Chinese Herbology III	60	4	4
2204	CPR/F.A.	15	1	1
2205	Western Medicine Pathology II	30	2	2
2206	Clinic Observation V	30	1	2
	Total	210	13	14

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Third Trimester

Course #	Course Title	Hours	Credits	Hours/Week
2301	TCM Treatment Principles	30	2	2
2302	Auricular Acupuncture	30	2	2
2303	Chinese Herbal Formulas I	60	4	4
2304	Western Physical Assessment	60	4	4
2305	Medical Tuina	30	2	2
2306	Clinic Observation VI	30	1	2
	Total	240	15	16

Third Year

First Trimester

Course #	Course Title	Hours	Credits	Hours/Week
3101	TCM Internal Medicine I	60	4	4
3102	TCM Neurology	30	2	2
3103	Chinese Herbal Formulas II	60	4	4
3104	Western Internal Medicine	60	4	4
3105	Adv. Acupuncture Techniques*	30	2	2
3106	Clinical Practice I	120	4	8
	Total	330	18	22

Second Trimester

Course #	Course Title	Hours	Credits	Hours/Week
3201	TCM Internal Medicine II	60	4	4
3202	Musculo-Skeletal Disorders in TCM	30	2	2
3203	Chinese Herbal Formulas III	60	4	4
3204	Pediatric Tuina	30	2	2
3205	Scalp & Hand Acupuncture	30	2	2
3206	Clinical Practice II	120	4	8
	Total	330	18	22

Third Trimester

Course #	Course Title	Hours	Credits	Hours/Week
3301	TCM Dermatology	30	2	2
3302	Chinese Patent Medicine	30	2	2
3303	Survey of Health Care System	30	2	2
3304	Lab Data Reading	30	2	2
3305	Yellow Emperor's Classic of Med*	30	2	2
3306	Clinical Practice III	120	4	8
	Total	240	12	16

Fourth Year

First Trimester

Course #	Course Title	Hours	Credits	Hours/Week
4101	TCM Gynecology/Obstetrics	60	4	4
4102	Febrile Diseases	30	2	2
4103	Western Gynecology/Pediatrics	30	2	2
4104	TCM Geriatrics	30	2	2
4105	Board Review	30	2	2
4106	Clinical Practice IV	120	4	8
	Total	270	14	18

Second Trimester

Course #	Course Title	Hours	Credits	Hours/Week
4201	TCM Psychology	30	2	2
4202	Western Pharmacology	30	2	2
4203	Medical Referral	30	2	2
4204	TCM Counseling	30	2	2
4205	Adv. Herbal Prescriptions*	30	2	2
4206	Clinical Practice V	120	4	8
	Total	240	12	16

Third Trimester

Course #	Course Title	Hours	Credits	Hours/Week
4301	TCM Cases Studies	30	2	2

4302	TCM Pediatrics	30	2	2
4303	Practice Management	30	2	2
4304	Ethics, Legal & Professional Issues	30	2	2
4305	Sensory Organ Disorders in TCM*	30	2	2
4306	Clinical Practice VI	120	4	8
	Total	240	12	16

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In order to complete the program, 180 hours of clinical observation are required during the first six trimesters, and 720 hours of clinical practice are required during the remaining six trimesters, during which students must complete at least 360 treatment sessions including at least 72 new patients.

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2014-15

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SITE MAP
HELP**Northwestern Chiropractic Acupuncture Certificate**

Health Sciences University

	 TUITION \$1620 Full Program Discount (save \$270) or \$270 per session	 LOCATION On campus Click icon for directions	 CE HOURS 105 Full Program 15 Per Session	TIMES Sat 9am-6pm Sun 8am-4pm (1 hr lunch on your own each day)
--	--	---	--	--

This course is taught by a chiropractor and licensed acupuncturist specifically to fit the needs of chiropractors. Both theoretical and practical clinical skills will be taught, giving you techniques to help you treat even the most difficult musculoskeletal problems. The information presented will also help prepare you for the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners (NCBE) acupuncture exam which is required in some states for chiropractors to practice acupuncture.

About the Instructor**Peter Lichtenstein, DC, CCSP, LAc** - [email link](#)

- 1992 graduate of Northwestern College of Chiropractic.
- Practicing chiropractor and holds a diplomate (NCCAOM) in acupuncture.
- Owns New Paltz Acupuncture and Chiropractic Clinic in upstate New York where he blends Eastern-style health care with traditional chiropractic.
- He is past-president of the Acupuncture Society of New York.
- Certified Chiropractic Sports Physician.
- Post-graduate faculty at Northwestern Health Sciences University since 2003.

#	Dates	Course Description
1	Sept. 20-21, 2014	<i>Theory: What is Yin and What is Yang? Clean Needle Technique</i> Clinical Portion: Introduction to Needling, Elementary point location. Palpation of the Abdomen and Treatment of the Immune System.
2	Oct. 25-26, 2014	<i>Theory: Five Element Theory and the Vital Substances</i> Clinical Portion: Ancillary techniques including cupping, bleeding, pediatrics, moxibustion, Gua Sha, Treatment of the Low Back via Abdominal Palpation
3	Nov. 22-23, 2014	<i>Theory: The Transformation of Qi & Functions of the Organs</i> Clinical Portion: Introduction to Japanese acupuncture. Akabane diagnosis, Polarity and the use of Magnets and Ion Pumping Cords. Treating the Neck and the Shoulder.
4	Dec. 13-14, 2014	<i>Theory: Causes of Disease and Beginning Pattern Identification</i> Clinical Portion: Treatment of Structural Problems in the Scapula and Hips Region. Cervical Pain, Headaches and the treatment of inflammation with Metal and Water Points
5	Jan. 31-Feb. 1, 2015	<i>Theory: Functions of the Lung, Spleen and Heart. Tongue and Pulse.</i> Clinical Portion: Lower Extremity, Using the Extra Vessels Treatment of scars and trigger point needling techniques.
6	Feb. 21-22, 2015	<i>Theory: Functions of the Kidney and the Liver. Auricular Acupuncture and treating Addictions.</i> Clinical Portion: Auricular Acupuncture, the upper extremity
7	March 14-15, 2015	<i>Theory: Putting it all together, using the diagnosis forms</i> Clinical Portion: Sciatica using Pachi Pachi. Clinical Quiz.

*****Schedule is subject to change without notice*******Required Text - Included in Tuition:**

- Medical Asepsis for Acupuncturists (Safety Course Handout), by John Pirog
- Chiropractic Acupuncture Theory and Clinical Notes, by Peter Lichtenstein

Attachment #2 - www.nwhealth.edu/conted/seminars/acocert2.html



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- APPLICANTS
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Eligibility Requirements

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All NCCAOM Certification applicants must meet specific training requirements prior to sitting for the examinations.

Eligibility requirements to become authorized to test and **certification requirements** which must be fulfilled before certification can be awarded **are two different** elements in the certification process.

Examination Eligibility Requirements (U.S. Education) ▼ (Click to Read)

Pre-graduation Hour Requirements

Examination	Completed Hours
Foundations of Oriental Medicine Acupuncture and Point Location Biomedicine	1,490
Chinese Herbology	2,050 (410 clinical hours)

ACAOM Graduation Hour Requirement

	Minimum 3 years—1905 Hours/105 Credits	
	Subject	Hours Required
Acupuncture Program	Oriental Medicine/ Acupuncture Theory	705
	Acupuncture Clinic	660
	Biomedicine	450
	Counseling, Communications, Ethics, Practice Management	90
	Minimum 4 years—2625 Hours/146 Credits	
	Oriental Medicine/ Acupuncture Theory	705
	Didactic Oriental Herbal Studies	450
	*Acupuncture/ Chinese Herbology Clinic	870
	Biomedicine	510
	Counseling, Communications, Ethics, Practice Management	90
*ACAOM Guideline: Herb certificate training program for Master of Acupuncture students and practitioners will be a minimum of 450 hours of didactic instruction in herbs and 210 hours of herbal clinical training.		

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Once your application is approved and you have been issued an Authorization to Test letter, you **will not** be required to meet any new eligibility requirements that may have been adopted since your application was received.

Eligibility Requirements (International Education) ▼

Certification Eligibility Routes ▼

Applicant – Quick Finds

Foreign Language Exams
Information
Fees
Certification Program Fact
Sheets
NCCAOM Certification
Brochure
Benefits of NCCAOM
Certification
Exam Content
General - Frequently
Asked Questions
Approved Candidate
Contact us

Applicant - Forms

NCCAOM Certification
Handbooks and
Applications
NCCAOM Certification
Handbook Order Form
Agent Designation Form
School Code Assigned by
NCCAOM
ADA Accommodations

Applicant - Links

Practice Tests
International CNT Courses
Education in a U.S. School
ACAOM
Education in an
International School
NCCAOM Route 2
Formal Education
International Applicants
AACRAO
WES
ABT Exam
Discontinuation

CCAOM

Council of Colleges of
Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine

Committed to Excellence in Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Education

Know Your Acupuncturist

Practitioners whose graduate education is in Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine (AOM) receive approximately 80% of their education exclusively in this field and undergo extensive clinical training averaging 3-4 years. Other healthcare practitioners may only use acupuncture, which is one of the many therapies of Oriental Medicine, as a technique in their primary practice.

A philosophical distinction of Oriental Medicine is its whole person approach of mind, body, and spirit in a comprehensive energetic healthcare system that includes acupuncture, herbs, Asian bodywork (e.g. acupressure, tui na, shiatsu), nutrition, tai chi, qi gong, and meditation.

This chart is designed to illustrate the varying levels of education undertaken by healthcare professionals in acupuncture only and not in related curriculum, such as in the biosciences. Acupuncture should only be administered by a practitioner who has specific education in this field due to risk of improper needling, inadequate understanding of Oriental medical diagnostic procedures, transmission of disease, imbalancing of energy, or ethical violations. Ask your practitioner about his or her education in order to ensure that you receive the most professional acupuncture care available for your optimal health and wellness.

www.ccaom.org

Contact Hours in Acupuncture Education	Practitioner Title	Application
3-4 years (1500 - 2000 hours in acupuncture)*	Typically a Licensed Acupuncturist (LAc)** who has obtained a degree/diploma from an ACAOM-accredited college and has passed the national certification exams administered by the NCCAOM.***	A broad range of health issues, including chronic disease, pain, internal medicine, rehabilitation, and prevention
300 hours or less in acupuncture	Typically a medical doctor, osteopath, naturopath, or chiropractor who uses acupuncture as an adjunctive technique. The World Health Organization recommends that medical doctors have a minimum of 200 hours of training to know when to refer to a more fully-trained Acupuncturist or Oriental Medicine practitioner.	Pain, basic ailments
100 hours or less in acupuncture	Typically a detox/auricular acupuncture technician or chiropractor (detox techs are generally limited to 5 points on the ear)	Addiction & pain

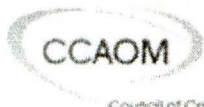
*ACAOM's total curriculum requirement for an acupuncture-only training program is 1905 hours and ranges between 1950-2600 hours for ACAOM-accredited and candidate acupuncture only training programs, with a minimum of 450 hours in the biomedical clinical sciences.

**Some states also designate the licensing title (non-degree) as DOM or DAC, or Acupuncture Physician. Licensed Acupuncturists may have also obtained an OMD, PhD, or DAC for non-extensive post-graduate training. Thus, it is important to ask where such a title was received.

***ACAOM (Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine, www.acaom.org); NCCAOM (National Commission for the Certification of Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine, www.nccaom.org)

Produced by the Council of Colleges of Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine (CCAOM). For reprint information contact 301-476-7790 or executivedirector@ccaom.org. For information about the Council please see our web site at www.ccaom.org

Attachment #4



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2191

#1 pg 14

Clean Needle Technique Course

Overview

Dear CNT Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the Clean Needle Technique (CNT) course, administered by the Council of Colleges of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (CCAOM). Successful completion of the CNT course is one of the requirements for National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM) certification, as well as a licensing requirement in most states.

Please note that the CCAOM CNT course is intended only for currently enrolled acupuncture students, persons currently enrolled in a state or NCCAOM approved tutorial program, persons who have graduated from an acupuncture and/or Oriental medicine program or school, licensed health care professionals legally able to practice acupuncture in the United States, or NADA detoxification specialists. In order to take the CCAOM CNT course, you must meet one of the eligibility criteria listed on page 2 of the application form.

The CNT course contains several components:

1. an orientation
2. detailed instruction on the theories, concepts and application of clean needle technique as described in the Clean Needle Technique Manual
3. a demonstration of the practical application of CNT
4. a written exam
5. a training session where each applicant can practice and perfect the utilization and employment of CNT
6. a practical exam

Each CNT course begins at 8:30 am and ends no later than 5:00 pm. *Although the course may end before 5:00 pm, we cannot guarantee it.* If you have any questions after reading the enclosed material, please call the CCAOM office at 410-464-6040, or email your questions to: ccaoment@comcast.net.

Applications can be sent by mail, by fax, or by e-mail (if sent by e-mail, please scan the application and send as an attachment so that signatures are visible) to:

Council of Colleges of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine
PO Box 65120
Baltimore, MD 21209
Fax: 410-464-6042
ccaoment@comcast.net

If you fax your application to us, please call to confirm receipt, as faxes are not always successfully transmitted.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you do not receive the acceptance materials approximately one month before the course date, you must contact us to find out why. Not receiving the acceptance materials is not a legitimate reason for missing a class, as we do not always receive (or are able to process) every application.

Sincerely,

Paula Diamond
CCAOM CNT Program Manager

Committed to Excellence in Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Education

Attachment #5

1/23 #2 pg 1

To: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
From: Adriane Maag, M.Om., Dipl. Ac.
Date: January 18, 2015
Re: Testimony in support of SB 2191 Acupuncture Licensure Bill

Dear Mister Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Adriane Maag and I am an acupuncturist living in Fargo. I grew up in Fargo, and knew that I would be returning home upon graduation in December of 2011. I help people stay happy, healthy and whole. More people are turning to acupuncture as an adjunctive therapy to their current health plan. As patient frustration grows from taking pills in an attempt to solve their medical ailments, they start to look for an alternative that is more natural or holistic. Acupuncture triggers the body's natural ability to heal itself. It is safe, effective and natural. It is one of the oldest ongoing medicines in the world, having at least 2,000 years of recorded history. The World Health Organization has listed symptoms, diseases and conditions that have been shown through controlled trials to be treated effectively by acupuncture. Please see the attached article for more details. Over 50% of my patients are seeking acupuncture treatments for pain management. This is because they are no longer are getting relief from their medications, or no longer want to be taking numerous medications. In addition, many couples use acupuncture to help with fertility.

Patients are asked to complete a confidential health questionnaire and are informed that acupuncturists follow HIPAA (health privacy) guidelines just like a doctor's office. The health questionnaire is very important to the treatment plan. It is thorough and extensive, providing the practitioner a whole body overview of how each patient's body is functioning in terms of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM). Based on patient information I am able to determine, and customize, the specific points to use for each patient. We visit in a relaxing treatment room, discussing any health concerns the patient has. We focus on the main complaint that brought them in as well as any other areas of discomfort in regards to their health. We talk about the type (constant, intermittent, better at night or day, etc.) and quality (sharp, burning, tingling, aching, etc.) of pain or discomfort, how it affects daily living or sleep, and what makes it better or worse. After going over their health history, I explain to my patients what acupuncture is going to specifically do for their ailment. Often times, acupuncture is done while you are wearing your street clothes, just rolling up sleeves or pant legs and taking off shoes and socks. After the needles are inserted, the patient rests and relaxes with quiet music. Relaxation time is typically 20-30 minutes. A midday nap, quiet time for personal reflection, or just time for you away from work, kids/family is never a complaint anyone has about their acupuncture treatment. After needles are removed, one can go about the rest of the day with their normal daily activity level.

With each new patient I stress how needles are handled and disposed of. They are sterile, single use needles that are the width of 2 human hairs. The skin is cleaned with isopropyl alcohol prior to receiving acupuncture. The needles are disposed into sharps containers as medical waste. They are NEVER reused. The approved acupuncture programs all have clean needle training as a part of the curriculum in order to enter student clinic, as well as graduate. In order to be nationally certified, one must receive Clean Needle Technique, or CNT, certification. The course is rigorous, with both theoretical and practical components. It includes lecture, demonstration, as well as written and practical examinations. This CNT coursework totals approximately 15-18 hours.

Every day acupuncturists are exposed to blood borne pathogens. Knowing how to properly handle and dispose of needles is of utmost importance in the acupuncture profession. Forty-four states plus the District of Columbia, as well as on the national level, have standards and certifications that are already in place for those who meet the requirements to receive the title licensed acupuncturist, or L.Ac. The fact that there are currently no regulations in place for the state of North Dakota is extremely disconcerting to me and my colleagues, drawing on the issue of public protection.

Please see the following page for the attachments to my testimony. Thank you for your time, it is greatly appreciated.

Warmly,



Adriane Maag, M.Om. Dipl. Ac.

(Masters of Science in Oriental Medicine, Diplomate of Acupuncture (NCCAOM))

Acupuncturist

1/23 #2 pg 2
SIB 2191

What Conditions Does Acupuncture Treat (According to the World Health Organization)?

By John Amaro, LAc, DC, Dipl. Ac.(NCCAOM), Dipl.Med.Ac.(IAMA)

In contemporary applications of acupuncture in North America, it is becoming increasingly common to hear patients complain that they are being challenged by their insurance carrier with the comment that acupuncture is not effective for a particular situation, and therefore coverage is denied.

Of course, it is obvious that insurance companies are in the business to minimize costs, and escalate productivity and profit. As a result, it is not uncommon or unlikely that our patients will be denied coverage only because the insurance carrier has deemed acupuncture is not an effective or approved treatment.

The World Health Organization (WHO), whose authority concerning health-related matters internationally cannot be challenged, has compiled a list of symptoms, syndromes, disease processes, pathologies, traumas and conditions that have definitely been proven as effectively treated by acupuncture. The WHO has also compiled a list of diseases, symptoms and conditions for which acupuncture has shown definite therapeutic effects, but more proof is needed to establish acupuncture as a mainstream form of treatment. Should a curious patient, insurance company or colleague require proof of acupuncture's effectiveness, the following list is something you will want to keep on file. Its use will be inevitable.

In an official report, *Acupuncture: Review and Analysis of Reports on Controlled Clinical Trials*, the WHO (WHO) has listed the following symptoms, diseases and conditions that have been shown through controlled trials to be treated effectively by acupuncture:

- low back pain
- neck pain
- sciatica
- tennis elbow
- knee pain
- periarthritis of the shoulder
- sprains
- facial pain (including craniomandibular disorders)
- headache
- dental pain
- temporomandibular (TMJ) dysfunction
- rheumatoid arthritis
- induction of labor
- correction of malposition of fetus (breech presentation)
- morning sickness
- nausea and vomiting
- postoperative pain
- stroke
- essential hypertension
- primary hypotension
- renal colic
- leucopenia
- adverse reactions to radiation or chemotherapy
- allergic rhinitis, including hay fever
- biliary colic
- depression (including depressive neurosis and depression following stroke)
- acute bacillary dysentery
- primary dysmenorrhea
- acute epigastralgia
- peptic ulcer
- acute and chronic gastritis

Attachment #6

The foregoing list is absolute concerning acupuncture's effectiveness; however the report continues with three more categories:

1. Diseases, symptoms and conditions for which the therapeutic effect of acupuncture has been shown, but further proof is needed (68 specific conditions). These conditions are effectively treated as in the first category; it's just that more trials are necessary to establish the proof scientifically.
2. Diseases, symptoms and conditions reporting some therapeutic effects for which acupuncture is worth trying (nine conditions).
3. Diseases, symptoms and conditions in which acupuncture may be tried, provided the practitioner has special modern medical knowledge and adequate monitoring equipment (eight conditions).

1/23 #2 pg 4
SB 2191

To: Government and Veteran Affairs Committee
From: Tanya Boehland
Date: January 21, 2015
RE: Testimony in support of SB 2191 Acupuncture Licensure Bill

Mister Chairman and Members of the Committee;


My name is Tanya Boehland. I have lived in Fargo, ND since 1995. I am a North Dakota licensed Reflexologist and have a full time practice in Fargo. I have found Acupuncture to greatly help me in several personal traumatic situations involving my hands. I will tell you about my first time.

I was first introduced to Traditional Chinese Acupuncture for pain and trauma relief in 2010. I had just spent two 11 hour days peeling sandbags off pallets to help create a seven foot tall - 100,000 unit sandbag dike in my neighborhood during the 2010 spring flood. I sought out acupuncture treatment the next day for my crippled wrists that were spasming from sandbagging overuse. It was a very painful and frightening situation for me because I needed my hands to do my job, and function in general. After receiving just one acupuncture treatment which included needle placements all over my body (not just my hands), I was nearly pain free, and had almost complete full range of motion return to each of my wrists. I was amazed at the dramatic results because just the year before - during the 2009 flood - I suffered the same wrist symptoms after a same intense neighborhood flood fight. I treated my wrists that year with advil, ice, massage, and chiropractic treatment. I did not have normal use of my hands for almost full two months following that traumatic 2009 ordeal.

I dont know of any other therapy that could have helped me as effectively as Acupuncture proved to with my past hand injuries. In my opinion, nothing in Western-based medicine can duplicate the healing and health effects of Traditional Chinese Acupuncture.

Thank you for your time. I can be reached at 701-566-2904 for any questions.

Most Sincerely,



22 Jan 2015

Tanya S. Boehland
3327 46th Ave. S.
Fargo, ND 58104

Attachment #7

1/23 SB 2191 #2 pg 5

CONCORDIA COLLEGE

Global Learning

1/15/2015

To: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
From: Joy Navratil, Study Away Coordinator, Concordia College
Re: Testimony in support of SB 2191 Acupuncture Licensure Bill

Dear Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Members,

I am a North Dakota resident writing in support of North Dakota licensing its acupuncturist (SB 2191 Acupuncture Licensure Bill). I have been doing acupuncture since 2007 for a variety of health concerns. I experienced insomnia for approximately 2 months and the first night I slept was after an acupuncture appointment. I have noticed significant improvement in my health after to acupuncture treatments. Additionally, I enjoy the relaxing benefits of acupuncture.

I have seen three different individuals for acupuncture therapy. The first was a homeopathic physician who had the proper acupuncture schooling and the third earned her master's degree in acupuncture. After seeing the homeopathic doctor for acupuncture in my home town I wanted to find someone in Fargo who I could see for acupuncture. At this time I did not know there was a difference in the amount of acupuncture schooling/training that one completed and ended up going to a chiropractor who did acupuncture. I saw no improvement for my health ailments by receiving acupuncture treatment from the chiropractor. Furthermore, during treatment I didn't experience the relaxing effect that I experienced with my previous acupuncture provider. I was so disappointed that I never went back and did some research to find a person that had a master's degree in acupuncture for treatment. That's when I found my current acupuncturist who received her master's degree in acupuncture and have been going to her ever since.

As someone who has visited a chiropractor with the minimum acupuncture training and two others who have been properly educated in acupuncture, I know firsthand how important it is to receive treatment from someone who knows what they are doing. Acupuncturist professionals deeply care about their patients' health concerns and want them to receive the best possible care by a trained professional and I think the state of North Dakota should honor that wish by licensing acupuncturist who have a master's degree/homeopathic medicine degree.

Please feel free to contact me for further questioning about my experience.

Joy Navratil

Joy Navratil
Study Away Coordinator
Concordia College
Global Learning
W: 218.299.3186
C: 701.730.4002
E: jnavrati@cord.edu

Home Address:
1001 17th Street South
Fargo, ND 58103

TO: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

From: Brittany Petrick, RN, BSN

1/16/15

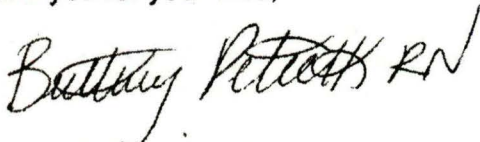
Re: Testimony in support of SB 2191 Acupuncture Licensure Bill

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support to pass this bill so that North Dakota will license its acupuncturists. I am from Rocklake ND, grew up in North Dakota, and went to nursing school in Jamestown ND. I decided to further my healthcare education by going back to school for my Master's in Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine. I am currently attending Southwest Acupuncture College in Boulder CO, which is a four year Master's program consisting of 3,092.5 hours.

I will graduate in 2016 and have chosen not to move back to North Dakota as it is a state that does not offer licensure for acupuncturists. I strongly urge you to pass this bill as it will have a positive impact on North Dakota and its citizens. This bill would ensure that practitioners are competent in their profession, making ethical decisions, and maintaining their competency through continuing education and recertification. All of this means safe and effective practice to protect the public.

Thank you for your time,



Brittany Petrick, RN, BSN
Denver CO
(701)550-0089

1/23 SB 2191 #2
Pg 7

To: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
From: Alexandra Matthews
Date: January 16, 2015
Re: Testimony in support of SB 2191 Acupuncture Licensure Bill

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee.

As a future health care professional, the licensure of acupuncture in the state of North Dakota is very important to my future career and success. In 2012, I received my Bachelors of Science in Biology with an emphasis in health and medical sciences from Minnesota State University-Moorhead. I also graduated with a minor in Anthropology. The ambitions of receiving my Masters Degree in Oriental medicine were set in place long before I graduated. I decided this was the best path for my education and future career for many reasons. There is a need for holistic medicine in the state of North Dakota. In other parts of the country, you can easily receive acupuncture treatments without having to travel long distances. In North Dakota, the practitioners are low in numbers. This makes it difficult for people that choose to use acupuncture for their diseases to receive proper treatment and care. The popularity of acupuncture is on the rise in the Midwestern states. Along the coasts, it has already taken hold and is used in hospitals and other health care settings. I feel there is a large market for this type of work in the future in North Dakota. This would create more jobs and create a better health care experience for patients. Acupuncture works for a variety of symptoms and diseases. It can be used to treat the common cold or it can be used to treat the side effects caused by life saving medications for a person being treated for diabetes that is experiencing neuropathy. The positive outcomes from the use of acupuncture are endless and I'm excited to be a part of the movement.

I was born and raised in the state of North Dakota. My family has owned small businesses in the state dating all the way back to my Great Grandfather, Milo Matthews. I will be carrying on that "family tradition" by returning to the state to open an acupuncture clinic when I finish school. North Dakota is my home. I could not choose a better place to open a small business and start my career. Currently, 44 states provide licensure in the field of acupuncture. North Dakota is one of 6 states that does not. I am confident that this will soon change. I feel having licensure in the state is best for me and for my patients. It creates a level of protection for all parties involved in healthcare treatment and also will give a sense of comfort to the patients that I am licensed to complete a task that benefits their health. After 7 years of intense education, being able to receive a license in the state I will be practicing in will be very meaningful and well deserved.

Thank you for your time,

Alexandra Matthews



Masters of Acupuncture Student
Northwestern Health Sciences

Resident of Fargo, North Dakota

Attachment #



National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine



[My Profile Page](#) [NCCAOM Certification](#) [PDA Search Engine](#) [Find A Practitioner](#) [State Licensing](#) [Helpful NCCAOM Links](#)

State Licensing

State Licensing Requirements List

Although a majority of states require the NCCAOM examination or certification, each state regulatory board carries unique requirements for licensure. As a service to our Diplomates and candidates, a table of requirements for each state can be viewed clicking the "[View Website](#)" link for each state. In addition, this table provides the contact list for each state regulatory agency. **Although NCCAOM regularly updates the information contained in table, the NCCAOM does not guarantee the accuracy of the information. State rules and regulations are subject to change; therefore, you should always confirm current requirements for licensure with your state board.**

Name	Practice Acupuncture	Certification Required	FOMM	ACU	PLM	BIO	CHE	State Website
Alabama	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	
Alaska	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
Arizona	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
Arkansas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
California	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	View Website
Colorado	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
Connecticut	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	View Website
Delaware	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	View Website
District of Columbia	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	View Website
Florida	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	View Website
Georgia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
Hawaii	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	View Website
Idaho	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
Illinois	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
Indiana	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
Iowa	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
Kansas	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	
Kentucky	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
Louisiana	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	View Website
Maine	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
Maryland	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	View Website
Massachusetts	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	View Website View Notes
Michigan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
Minnesota	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
Mississippi	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
Missouri	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
Montana	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	View Website
Nebraska	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	View Website
Nevada	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	View Website View Notes
New Hampshire	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
New Jersey	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	View Website View Notes
New Mexico	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	View Website
New York	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	View Website
North Carolina	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
North Dakota	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	
Ohio	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	View Website

								View Notes
Oklahoma	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	
Oregon	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
Pennsylvania	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	View Website View Notes
Rhode Island	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
South Carolina	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
South Dakota	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	
Tennessee	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
Texas	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	View Website
Utah	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
Vermont	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	View Website View Notes
Virginia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
Washington	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
West Virginia	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	View Website
Wisconsin	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	View Website
Wyoming	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	

1/23 SB 2191 #2 pg 9

Adriane Maag's practitioner testimony attachments.

6. Amaro, John. "What Conditions Does Acupuncture Treat (According to the World Health Organization)?" *Acupuncture Today*. October 2004. Vol 05 Issue 10 .
7. Tanya Boehland, patient testimony on using acupuncture for pain.
8. Joy Navratil, patient testimony on the difference of receiving acupuncture from a master's degree-trained acupuncturist and a chiropractor.
9. Brittany Petrick, student testimony on how she chose not to return to practice in ND due to lack of licensure here.
10. Alexandra Matthew's student testimony on the popularity of acupuncture and how she urges ND to provide acupuncture licensing.
11. NCCAOM's list of states that license acupuncturists.

<http://mx.nccaom.org/StateLicensing.aspx>

Government and Affairs Committee

Testimony in support of Senate Bill 2191 - Acupuncture Licensing Bill

Date 23 Jan 2015

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Stephanie Belohlavek-Geiger and I am a resident of Mandan. I served honorably in the United States Marine Corps and am currently a readjustment counselor for the Bismarck Vet Center where I counsel combat veterans and their families. I am also a Co-founder of the Dakota Sisterhood of Women Veterans.

Due to my military service, I have been diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, which created secondary health symptoms such as anxiety, depression and insomnia among other health issues. Some of these other issues lead to surgery in 2008, which is when my Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) began.

Before Acupuncture I was using Methotrexate to control my RA where the side effects from the medicine were more debilitating to me than the effects of the disease. My Rheumatologist told my husband and me that I would be in a wheel chair within 6 months of my diagnosis due to the severity of my RA. That was a tough diagnosis to hear when you are a forty-one old mother of five.

Prior to the onset of RA, I was working part time for the Bismarck Vet Center, a full time student at the University of Mary working on my undergraduate degree, and owned and operated a lawn care service. I was running and lifting weights a minimum of five days a week, and loved to cook and garden for my husband and our children. Needless to say, I was very active prior to RA entering my life.

RA and the subsequent treatments left me too tired and stiff to function with numerous swollen joints to the point where it was a physical and emotional struggle to get out of bed in the morning, let alone go to work. It was increasingly difficult to focus or complete assigned schoolwork, to take care of my children, or to maintain any physical activity. Crocheting and running were my primary coping mechanisms I used when struggling with my PTSD symptoms and RA left me unable to do either. My life at this point was a day-to-day struggle.

Early on in my journey with RA, I was encouraged by a chiropractor to give acupuncture a try. Since my illness, I have an intense fear of needles and kept finding excuses not to make an appointment. Unfortunately for me that was a poor reason not try acupuncture. Because I was unwilling to try something new, I was left with years of fighting a body that did not allow me to complete daily activities without help.

My first treatment with acupuncture was in April of 2012. I was having a particularly intense flare that would not level off. My fingers were swollen to the point where I could not bend them and my wrists and ankles were severely affected. My wrists would not rotate and I could not walk without holding on to something. Again the chiropractor encouraged me to try acupuncture, saying he had been researching acupuncture and felt it could be beneficial for me. I finally called and made an appointment; one of the best decisions I have made concerning not only my fight with RA but for my overall well-being.

After my first session, I remember getting in my vehicle and calling my husband where I shared my experience with him. The inflammation in my hands was showing marked signs of reduced swelling and noticeable increased mobility. I could not understand how a few placed needles could have that much impact after one treatment.

To me, acupuncture is more of a total body form of therapy and helped my body as a whole not just with the RA, to include some of my PTSD symptoms. After treatment to help with stress and anxiety, I was able to sleep more than a couple of hours at a time, which my body needed to help the healing process. Within a short time frame I was once again walking, slow jogging, able to do some light lifting and even able to open doors which I hadn't been able to do for a number of years.

In roughly a year I was no longer on the Methotrexate, my liver enzymes were back to normal and I was in the process of regaining a semblance of my old life style. Acupuncture cannot rebuild the joints that were damaged, but from my experience, acupuncture appears to be able to maintain the joints that are still functional. The RA medication is so hard on a persons vital organs especially the heart and liver, not to mention numerous other side effects. Acupuncture has given me an opportunity to experience activities I thought I would never be able to enjoy again.


Stephanie Belohlavek-Geiger MSW, LCSW
Readjustment Counselor, Bismarck Vet Center
Self employed -Lawn Service
Co-Founder Dakota Sisterhood of Women Veterans

SB 2191

3 pg 3

1/23

Warrior Clinic reduces pain medication use

May 2, 2011

By Joshua L. Wick

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pain management program at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center Warrior Clinic has drastically reduced the number of wounded warriors receiving prescribed pain medication.

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, April 29, 2011) -- The pain management program at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center Warrior Clinic has drastically reduced the number of wounded warriors receiving prescribed pain medication.

Through a combination of administering painkillers differently at the onset of injury, alternative pain treatment methods and increased oversight of prescribed painkillers, the percentage of Soldiers at the clinic using prescribed narcotics has dropped from 83 percent in 2008, to just 10.2 percent in 2011.

"It's a holistic, interdisciplinary, and multi-modal approach," said Dr. Christopher Spevak, an anesthesiologist and pain physician at the Warrior Clinic. "Pain management is not simply giving opioids."

He explained that opioids are a class of prescription narcotics that include such drugs as morphine, codeine and oxycodone.

According to Spevak, in the last couple of years research has shown that if doctors effectively treat pain at the onset, they can prevent the "rewiring" of the patient's brain and prevent chronic pain later on. Treating acute pain as close to the time of injury, with the appropriate medication, is just one part of this multidisciplinary approach.

"There are many ways to treat pain initially; opioids are part of the whole pie," Spevak said. "We have regional techniques and we have gone forward right into the battlefield and placed regional catheters to infuse local anesthetics to numb the area."

The Warrior Clinic has also devoted a significant amount of resources into looking at alternative methods for managing and minimizing pain.

The alternative solutions include training sessions that can help Soldiers deal with pain in ways other than with medications. Included are options like acupuncture, chiropractic therapy, yoga and biofeedback.

The dynamic and holistic approach to addressing and treating pain uses a wide variety of resources that look at the mind, body, and cognitive behaviors of the Soldier as well as incorporating and educating the Soldiers families into the treatment and overall management of pain, officials said.

Also part of the program is monitoring prescription use to make sure Soldiers are only getting the medications they need, and in the dosages they need, and only for as long as they need them.

Elements of the policy include appropriate tracking and monitoring of Soldiers and their medications, controlling quantities, and prescribing the right medication at the right time.

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Page last updated Fri
July 22nd, 2011 at 12:16

www.army.mil/article/55849/warrior-clinic-reduces-pain-medication-use

SB 2191 Licensed Acupuncturist Bill
Lezlie Link, ND
Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
January 23, 2015

#4

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee.

My name is Lezlie Link. I am a doctor of naturopathic medicine. I serve as the chairperson of the North Dakota Board of Integrative Health Care. I am here today to state that the board members of the North Dakota Board of Integrative Health Care have met and discussed Senate Bill 2191. The board's position is neutral.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee for your time.

Senator Flakoll Amendment 2/19

#1

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SB 2191

Page 5, line 30, replace "Acupuncturist" with "Licensed Acupuncturist"

Page 5, line 30 replace "L.Ac." with "LAc"

#1
2191
3-12-15

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Government and Veterans Affairs Committee,

My name is Blake Blowers. I'm an acupuncturist in Bismarck. I'm registered as lobbyist #167 for the North Dakota Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine. Senate Bill 2191 has been introduced on our behalf, and I have been asked to explain the bill.

Senate Bill 2191 is a licensing bill for acupuncturists. The four main objectives of this bill are to establish licensing requirements, define a scope of practice, create titles and regulation under the board of Integrative Health Care.

Section 1 (page 1)

The change proposed in this section exempts acupuncturists from NDCC chapter 43-17 which regulates Physicians. An exception is necessary to create a new section of code specific to acupuncturists.

Section 2 (page 1)

This section creates an amendment to the Physicians chapter. It defines that acupuncturists must comply with reporting requirements when a patient's trauma appears to be from a violent crime, possible violation of criminal law in this state. If a report is made concerning a victim of domestic violence, or sexual assault, the individual must be provided with referral information and reported to proper agencies in their county.

Section 3 (page 2)

Section 3 defines the placement of a licensed acupuncturists to be under the Board of Integrative Health Care. The board of Integrative Health Care has anticipated acupuncturists joining them since the creation of the board last legislative session. It also defines that the use of the word "Board" from this point forward will imply the Board of Integrative Health Care, unless stated otherwise.

Section 4 (pages 2-3)

This section outlines the powers and duties of the board. Such as establishing a scope of practice for acupuncturists, determine if an exam from another state or country is equivalent for reciprocity, establish educational standards, and set fees. They also will produce a list of all licensed individuals and level of licensure and make it available upon request.

The board will also establish continuing education requirements and have the power to allow supervised student practice.

Section 5 (page 3)

States that the board shall issue a license to an applicant who fulfills the qualifications listed within the

chapter regulating acupuncturists.

Section 6 (pages 3-4)

Deals with license renewal and continuing education. It defines the effective start date of a license and the expiration date as well. It also describes the conditions of renewal based on payment and continuing education requirements being met, before a license will be granted by the board. It also describes what actions will take place if requirements are not met, and it provides an exception to anyone who doesn't meet the deadline for application due to a hardship.

Section 7 (page 4)

This section provides a penalty of a class B misdemeanor for anyone who violates the chapters pertaining to Acupuncturists, the board of Integrated Health Care, Naturopaths, or Music Therapists.

Section 8 (page 4-5)

Begins the creation of the chapter for acupuncturists.

Page 5 (line 1) defines acupuncture and provides a list of therapies that would be considered the practice of acupuncture. The therapies listed would be used as they are taught within an approved acupuncture program.

Page 5 (line 7) states that an acupuncturist is a person who has been granted licensure by the board of Integrative Health Care.

Page 5 (line 9) Is one of the most important parts of this bill, as it defines the level of training expected of an individual who applies for an acupuncture license under the board of Integrative Health Care.

This requirement is what will separate the acupuncture specialists from practitioners who simply use acupuncture as an adjunctive therapy.

Currently, there are a few different ways a person can complete acupuncture training. The most inclusive way is to attend a graduate level program, at a college or university, which prepares the practitioner with 2300 to 2500 hours of course work and supervised clinical training in acupuncture. This is the level of training the members of our Association have.

The other route is to take a several weekend course in acupuncture that provides 100 to 300 hours of training. Typically, the practitioners who go this route are specialists in a an area of medicine such as allopathy or chiropractic.

The training for an acupuncturist from an institution as it is required in this section, would provide approximately 24 times more training than that of the most basic acupuncture course required of other professionals. It would also require that each applicant has graduated from a nationally accredited Master's or Doctoral degree program, which would be a 2.5 to 4 year program, and pass the board

P. 3

SB 2191 Blake Blowers
Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Hearing

exams provided by the National Certification Commission of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine(NCCAOM).

The reason we're emphasizing the NCCAOM boards is that a significant amount of education in acupuncture training is required to even qualify for these board exams and it's our national certification agency. By requiring NCCAOM involvement, the licensee must stay current with the NCCAOM standards of meeting or exceeding continuing education and CPR requirements.

The NCCAOM is a nonprofit organization and the only organization that validates entry level competency in the practice of acupuncture and oriental medicine, through professional certification. Please see attachment #4 for more information on them.

Part a. and b. of this section relate to accreditation of a school that would hold an equivalent program if not specifically recognized by an agency that the United States department of education has recognized. The school would still be required to meet all other requirements of the board and would only be approved after an investigation of the program by the board.

The accreditation agency that will be used as the bench mark for determining whether a program will meet accreditation standards is the Accreditation Committee for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine. They are recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a "specialized and professional" accrediting agency with the primary purpose being to establish comprehensive educational and institutional requirements for acupuncture and Oriental Medicine programs, and to accredit programs and institutions that meet these requirements.

All of the reputable colleges and universities in the U.S. are either fully accredited or have candidacy for accreditation from this organization. By enforcing such a requirement, it will automatically separate lesser programs or the "diploma mills" from the legitimate acupuncture programs that properly train and prepare an acupuncturist.

Page 5 (line 20) Is an exemption that states some of the therapies listed in the definition of acupuncture are not the exclusive privilege of acupuncturists and their use by any individual who is allowed to legally do so in this state, by their board, is not being prohibited by this chapter. This will not affect those who are already practicing acupuncture under the scope of their own license.

Page 5 (Line 27) Chapter 43-61-03 is the beginning of the title creation relating to acupuncture and establishes a date the title will go into effect.

This chapter states that an individual may not practice any form of acupuncture without a license issued by the board. It also states that the title "LAc" or "Licensed Acupuncturist" will be the title given to those who are licensed as acupuncturists by the board of Integrative Health Care, and anyone who is not licensed by the board and uses those terms or initials as identification without being licensed is engaging in the practice of acupuncture without a license.

We feel that title creation is particularly important, because of the tremendous difference in education

between those who have completed graduate level acupuncture training from an accredited university or college, and other professionals who provide acupuncture as an adjunct therapy.

Page 6

(Line 1) 43-61-04 requires anyone wishing to practice acupuncture, use the title "Licensed Acupuncturist" or the abbreviation "LAc" to follow the board of Integrative Health Care approved application process.

(Line 5) 43-61-05 defines the terms and conditions required of an applicant for licensure. To give specific examples of what we are asking here I will give further detail on a few of the requirements. An applicant will have a personal history indicating they will not be a liability to the board or the public, and they will have completed all the requirements for application set forth by the board of Integrative Health Care.

Part a. requires the completion of a graduate level acupuncture program and would generally contain courses such as those listed in attachment #1.

Part b. ensures the applicant has successfully completed the board exams offered by the NCCAOM acupuncture board exam as outlined in attachment #3.

This section also requires a person have the physical, mental and professional capability to practice acupuncture and a history free of anything that would constitute grounds for disciplinary action by the board.

Page 6 (Line 23) 43-61-06 is provided as a narrow exception clause based on a review of education and experience of a few practitioners in our state who had taken a national acupuncture exam before the Department of Education credentials were established. This is not a grandfather clause.

Page 7 (Line 3) 43-61-07 gives the board the ability to grant reciprocity to an individual who has completed a test that is deemed an equivalent to the one required in this chapter. The individual would also have to meet all other requirements of the board for licensure.

Page 7 (Line 16) 43-61-08 Defines the practice of acupuncture in terms of what can and cannot be done by an acupuncturist.

Part 1, subcategories a. and b. states that acupuncturists will not prescribe or administer any therapy that is not part of the practice of acupuncture.

Part 2, subcategories a. and b. Define the therapies that an acupuncturist would be allowed to use as part of an acupuncture treatment.

P. 5

Page 7 (Line 29) 43-61-09 states that an acupuncturist has the same duties as a licensed physician with regard to public health when it comes to reporting, except the authority and responsibility of the acupuncturist is consistent with the scope of practice established under the board of Integrative Health Care.

Page 8

(Line 3) 43-61-10 allows for the employment of an acupuncturist by a hospital as long as the provisions of 43-17-42, which is the "Employment of Physicians by hospitals" is met.

Blake Blower's Attachments

1. A typical accredited Acupuncture/Oriental Medicine master's degree curriculum. 3,180 hours. 4 years. http://www.aaaom.edu/programs/masters_degree.html
2. A typical Chiropractic Acupuncture Certificate program curriculum - 105 hours. 7 weekends. <http://www.nwhealth.edu/conted/seminars/acucert2.html>
3. NCCAOM's eligibility requirements to sit for the national boards.
<http://www.nccaom.org/applicants/eligibility-requirements>
4. CCAOM's comparison chart of acupuncture education programs.
<http://www.ccaom.org/downloads/KnowYourAcupuncturist.pdf>
5. CCAOM's Clean Needle Technique Course Overview.
<http://www.ccaom.org/cntprogram.asp>

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AAAOM

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ACUPUNCTURE AND ORIENTAL MEDICINE

ABOUT PROGRAMS

Master's Degree
Massage Certificate
Community Education
Continuing Education

ADMISSIONS
FINANCIAL AID
FACULTY
CLINICS

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Master's Degree Program



The total master's degree program curriculum of 3180 hours (182 credits) includes 1740 hours of didactic instruction on acupuncture and Oriental medicine, 540 hours of bioscience-related material, and 900 hours of clinical observation and experience. The full-time program is designed to run twelve total trimesters, with fifteen weeks per trimester. The maximum time for program completion is eight years, taking eight credits per trimester minimum. It is also possible to accelerate through the program and complete it in nine trimesters.

Courses marked with an asterisk (*) are electives.
[CLICK HERE FOR A LIST OF COURSE DESCRIPTIONS.](#)
[CLICK HERE FOR A LIST OF COURSE TEXTBOOKS.](#)

First Year

First Trimester

Course #	Course Title	Hours	Credits	Hours/Week
1101	TCM Theory	60	4	4
1102	Meridians	30	2	2
1103	TCM & Chinese Culture	30	2	2
1104	Anatomy & Physiology I	30	2	2
1105	Western Medical Terminology	30	2	2
1106	Surface Anatomy	30	2	2
1107	Tai Chi	30	2	2
1108	Clinical Observation I	30	1	2
	Total	270	17	18

Second Trimester

Course #	Course Title	Hours	Credits	Hours/Week
1201	TCM Diagnostics I	30	2	2
1202	Point Location I	60	4	4
1203	TCM Pathology	30	2	2
1204	Anatomy & Physiology II	30	2	2
1205	Microbiology	30	2	2
1206	TCM Dietary Therapy I	30	2	2
1207	Healing Qi Gong	30	2	2
1208	Clinic Observation II	30	1	2
	Total	270	17	18

Third Trimester

Course #	Course Title	Hours	Credits	Hours/Week
1301	TCM Diagnostics II	30	2	2
1302	Point Location II	60	4	4
1303	Clinical Chinese Herbology I	60	4	4
1304	Anatomy & Physiology III	60	4	4
1305	TCM Dietary Therapy II	30	2	2
1306	Clinic Observation III	30	1	2
	Total	270	17	18

Second Year

First Trimester

Course #	Course Title	Hours	Credits	Hours/Week
2101	TCM Diagnostics III	60	4	4
2102	Acupuncture Prescriptions	60	4	4
2103	Clinical Chinese Herbology II	60	4	4
2104	Western Medical Pathology I	30	2	2
2105	Medical Chinese*	30	2	2
2106	Clinic Observation IV	30	1	2
	Total	240	15	16


Second Trimester

Course #	Course Title	Hours	Credits	Hours/Week
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Search



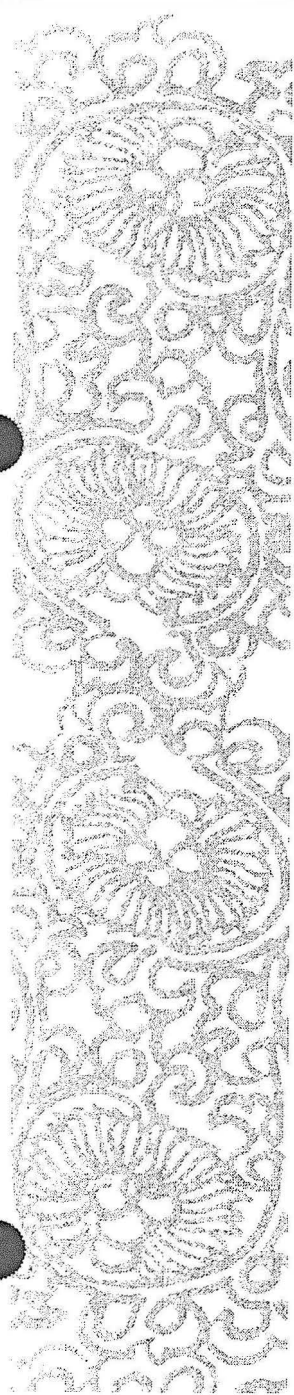
Information Request



American Academy of Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine

1925 W County Rd B2
Roseville, MN 55113

Directions



2201	OSHA/CNT	15	1	1
2202	Acupuncture Techniques	60	4	4
2203	Clinical Chinese Herbology III	60	4	4
2204	CPR/F.A.	15	1	1
2205	Western Medicine Pathology II	30	2	2
2206	Clinic Observation V	30	1	2
	Total	210	13	14

Third Trimester

Course #	Course Title	Hours	Credits	Hours/Week
2301	TCM Treatment Principles	30	2	2
2302	Auricular Acupuncture	30	2	2
2303	Chinese Herbal Formulas I	60	4	4
2304	Western Physical Assessment	60	4	4
2305	Medical Tuina	30	2	2
2306	Clinic Observation VI	30	1	2
	Total	240	15	16

Third Year

First Trimester

Course #	Course Title	Hours	Credits	Hours/Week
3101	TCM Internal Medicine I	60	4	4
3102	TCM Neurology	30	2	2
3103	Chinese Herbal Formulas II	60	4	4
3104	Western Internal Medicine	60	4	4
3105	Adv. Acupuncture Techniques*	30	2	2
3106	Clinical Practice I	120	4	8
	Total	330	18	22

Second Trimester

Course #	Course Title	Hours	Credits	Hours/Week
3201	TCM Internal Medicine II	60	4	4
3202	Musculo-Skeletal Disorders in TCM	30	2	2
3203	Chinese Herbal Formulas III	60	4	4
3204	Pediatric Tuina	30	2	2
3205	Scalp & Hand Acupuncture	30	2	2
3206	Clinical Practice II	120	4	8
	Total	330	18	22

Third Trimester

Course #	Course Title	Hours	Credits	Hours/Week
3301	TCM Dermatology	30	2	2
3302	Chinese Patent Medicine	30	2	2
3303	Survey of Health Care System	30	2	2
3304	Lab Data Reading	30	2	2
3305	Yellow Emperor's Classic of Med*	30	2	2
3306	Clinical Practice III	120	4	8
	Total	240	12	16

Fourth Year

First Trimester

Course #	Course Title	Hours	Credits	Hours/Week
4101	TCM Gynecology/Obstetrics	60	4	4
4102	Febrile Diseases	30	2	2
4103	Western Gynecology/Pediatrics	30	2	2
4104	TCM Geriatrics	30	2	2
4105	Board Review	30	2	2
4106	Clinical Practice IV	120	4	8
	Total	270	14	18

Second Trimester

Course #	Course Title	Hours	Credits	Hours/Week
4201	TCM Psychology	30	2	2
4202	Western Pharmacology	30	2	2
4203	Medical Referral	30	2	2
4204	TCM Counseling	30	2	2
4205	Adv. Herbal Prescriptions*	30	2	2
4206	Clinical Practice V	120	4	8
	Total	240	12	16

Third Trimester

Course #	Course Title	Hours	Credits	Hours/Week
4301	TCM Cases Studies	30	2	2

4302	TCM Pediatrics	30	2	2
4303	Practice Management	30	2	2
4304	Ethics, Legal & Professional Issues	30	2	2
4305	Sensory Organ Disorders in TCM*	30	2	2
4306	Clinical Practice VI	120	4	8
	Total	240	12	16

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In order to complete the program, 180 hours of clinical observation are required during the first six trimesters, and 720 hours of clinical practice are required during the remaining six trimesters, during which students must complete at least 360 treatment sessions including at least 72 new patients.

ABOUT AAAOM | EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS | ADMISSIONS | FINANCIAL AID | FACULTY | CLINICS

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1925 W County Rd B2, Roseville, MN 55113 - 651-631-0204 - info@aaaom.edu



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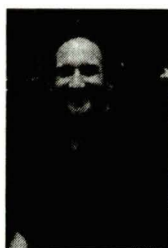
2014-15

Northwestern Chiropractic Acupuncture Certificate

Northwestern Health Sciences University

	 TUITION \$1620 Full Program Discount (save \$270) or \$270 per session	 LOCATION On campus Click icon for directions	 CE HOURS 105 Full Program 15 Per Session	TIMES Sat 9am-6pm Sun 8am-4pm (1 hr lunch on your own each day)
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This course is taught by a chiropractor and licensed acupuncturist specifically to fit the needs of chiropractors. Both theoretical and practical clinical skills will be taught, giving you techniques to help you treat even the most difficult musculoskeletal problems. The information presented will also help prepare you for the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners (NCBE) acupuncture exam which is required in some states for chiropractors to practice acupuncture.

About the Instructor**Peter Lichtenstein, DC, CCSP, LAc** - [email link](#)

- 1992 graduate of Northwestern College of Chiropractic.
- Practicing chiropractor and holds a diplomate (NCCAOM) in acupuncture.
- Owns New Paltz Acupuncture and Chiropractic Clinic in upstate New York where he blends Eastern-style health care with traditional chiropractic.
- He is past-president of the Acupuncture Society of New York.
- Certified Chiropractic Sports Physician.
- Post-graduate faculty at Northwestern Health Sciences University since 2003.

#	Dates	Course Description
1	Sept. 20-21, 2014	<i>Theory: What is Yin and What is Yang? Clean Needle Technique</i> Clinical Portion: Introduction to Needling, Elementary point location. Palpation of the Abdomen and Treatment of the Immune System.
2	Oct. 25-26, 2014	<i>Theory: Five Element Theory and the Vital Substances</i> Clinical Portion: Ancillary techniques including cupping, bleeding, pediatrics, moxibustion, Gua Sha, Treatment of the Low Back via Abdominal Palpation
3	Nov. 22-23, 2014	<i>Theory: The Transformation of Qi & Functions of the Organs</i> Clinical Portion: Introduction to Japanese acupuncture. Akabane diagnosis, Polarity and the use of Magnets and Ion Pumping Cords. Treating the Neck and the Shoulder.
4	Dec. 13-14, 2014	<i>Theory: Causes of Disease and Beginning Pattern Identification</i> Clinical Portion: Treatment of Structural Problems in the Scapula and Hips Region. Cervical Pain, Headaches and the treatment of inflammation with Metal and Water Points
5	Jan. 31-Feb. 1, 2015	<i>Theory: Functions of the Lung, Spleen and Heart. Tongue and Pulse.</i> Clinical Portion: Lower Extremity, Using the Extra Vessels Treatment of scars and trigger point needling techniques.
6	Feb. 21-22, 2015	<i>Theory: Functions of the Kidney and the Liver. Auricular Acupuncture and treating Addictions.</i> Clinical Portion: Auricular Acupuncture, the upper extremity
7	March 14-15, 2015	<i>Theory: Putting it all together, using the diagnosis forms</i> Clinical Portion: Sciatica using Pachi Pachi. Clinical Quiz.

*****Schedule is subject to change without notice *******Required Text - Included in Tuition:**

- Medical Asepsis for Acupuncturists (Safety Course Handout), by John Pirog
- Chiropractic Acupuncture Theory and Clinical Notes, by Peter Lichtenstein

- www.nwhealth.edu/conted/seminars/acocert2.html



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- CONTACT US

Eligibility Requirements

[Home](#) >> [Applicants](#) >> [Eligibility Requirements](#)

All NCCAOM Certification applicants must meet specific training requirements prior to sitting for the examinations.

Eligibility requirements to become authorized to test and **certification requirements** which must be fulfilled before certification can be awarded **are two different** elements in the certification process.

Examination Eligibility Requirements (U.S. Education) ▼ (Click to Read)

Pre-graduation Hour Requirements

Examination	Completed Hours
Foundations of Oriental Medicine Acupuncture and Point Location Biomedicine	1,490
Chinese Herbology	2,050 (410 clinical hours)

ACAOM Graduation Hour Requirement

	Minimum 3 years—1905 Hours/105 Credits	
	Subject	Hours Required
Acupuncture Program	Oriental Medicine/ Acupuncture Theory	705
	Acupuncture Clinic	660
	Biomedicine	450
	Counseling, Communications, Ethics, Practice Management	90
Oriental Medicine Program	Minimum 4 years—2625 Hours/146 Credits	
	Oriental Medicine/ Acupuncture Theory	705
	Didactic Oriental Herbal Studies	450
	*Acupuncture/ Chinese Herbology Clinic	870
	Biomedicine	510
	Counseling, Communications, Ethics, Practice Management	90
*ACAOM Guideline: Herb certificate training program for Master of Acupuncture students and practitioners will be a minimum of 450 hours of didactic instruction in herbs and 210 hours of herbal clinical training.		



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Once your application is approved and you have been issued an Authorization to Test letter, you **will not** be required to meet any new eligibility requirements that may have been adopted since your application was received.

Eligibility Requirements (International Education) ▼

Certification Eligibility Routes ▼

Applicant – Quick Finds

Foreign Language Exams
Information
Fees
Certification Program Fact
Sheets
NCCAOM Certification
Brochure
Benefits of NCCAOM
Certification
Exam Content
General - Frequently
Asked Questions
Approved Candidate
Contact us

Applicant - Forms

NCCAOM Certification
Handbooks and
Applications
NCCAOM Certification
Handbook Order Form
Agent Designation Form
School Code Assigned by
NCCAOM
ADA Accommodations

Applicant - Links

Practice Tests
International CNT Courses
Education in a U.S. School
ACAOM
Education in an
International School
NCCAOM Route 2
Formal Education
International Applicants
AACRAO
WES
ABT Exam
Discontinuation



Council of Colleges of
Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine
Committed to Excellence in Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Education

Know Your Acupuncturist

Practitioners whose graduate education is in Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine (AOM) receive approximately 80% of their education exclusively in this field and undergo extensive clinical training averaging 3-4 years. Other healthcare practitioners may only use acupuncture, which is one of the many therapies of Oriental Medicine, as a technique in their primary practice.

A philosophical distinction of Oriental Medicine is its whole person approach of mind, body, and spirit in a comprehensive energetic healthcare system that includes acupuncture, herbs, Asian bodywork (e.g. acupressure, tui na, shiatsu), nutrition, tai chi, qi gong, and meditation.

This chart is designed to illustrate the varying levels of education undertaken by healthcare professionals in acupuncture only and not in related curriculum, such as in the biosciences. Acupuncture should only be administered by a practitioner who has specific education in this field due to risk of improper needling, inadequate understanding of Oriental medical diagnostic procedures, transmission of disease, imbalancing of energy, or ethical violations. Ask your practitioner about his or her education in order to ensure that you receive the most professional acupuncture care available for your optimal health and wellness.

www.ccaom.org

Contact Hours in Acupuncture Education	Practitioner Title	Application
3-4 years (1500 - 2000 hours in acupuncture)*	Typically a Licensed Acupuncturist (LAc)** who has obtained a degree/diploma from an ACAOM-accredited college and has passed the national certification exams administered by the NCCAOM.***	A broad range of health issues, including chronic disease, pain, internal medicine, rehabilitation, and prevention
300 hours or less in acupuncture	Typically a medical doctor, osteopath, naturopath, or chiropractor who uses acupuncture as an adjunctive technique. The World Health Organization recommends that medical doctors have a minimum of 200 hours of training to know when to refer to a more fully-trained Acupuncturist or Oriental Medicine practitioner.	Pain, basic ailments
100 hours or less in acupuncture	Typically a detox/auricular acupuncture technician or chiropractor (detox techs are generally limited to 5 points on the ear)	Addiction & pain

*ACAOM's total curriculum requirement for an acupuncture-only training program is 1905 hours and ranges between 1950-2600 hours for ACAOM-accredited and candidate acupuncture only training programs, with a minimum of 450 hours in the biomedical clinical sciences.

**Some states also designate the licensing title (non-degree) as DOM or DAC, or Acupuncture Physician. Licensed Acupuncturists may have also obtained an OMD, PhD, or DAC for non-extensive post-graduate training. Thus, it is important to ask where such a title was received.

***ACAOM (Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine, www.acaom.org); NCCAOM (National Commission for the Certification of Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine, www.nccaom.org)

Produced by the Council of Colleges of Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine (CCAOM). For reprint information contact 301-476-7790 or executivedirector@ccaom.org. For information about the Council please see our web site at www.ccaom.org



Clean Needle Technique Course

Overview

Dear CNT Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the Clean Needle Technique (CNT) course, administered by the Council of Colleges of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (CCAOM). Successful completion of the CNT course is one of the requirements for National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM) certification, as well as a licensing requirement in most states.

Please note that the CCAOM CNT course is intended only for currently enrolled acupuncture students, persons currently enrolled in a state or NCCAOM approved tutorial program, persons who have graduated from an acupuncture and/or Oriental medicine program or school, licensed health care professionals legally able to practice acupuncture in the United States, or NADA detoxification specialists. In order to take the CCAOM CNT course, you must meet one of the eligibility criteria listed on page 2 of the application form.

The CNT course contains several components:

1. an orientation
2. detailed instruction on the theories, concepts and application of clean needle technique as described in the Clean Needle Technique Manual
3. a demonstration of the practical application of CNT
4. a written exam
5. a training session where each applicant can practice and perfect the utilization and employment of CNT
- a practical exam

Each CNT course begins at 8:30 am and ends no later than 5:00 pm. *Although the course may end before 5:00 pm, we cannot guarantee it.* If you have any questions after reading the enclosed material, please call the CCAOM office at 410-464-6040, or email your questions to: ccaomcnt@comcast.net.

Applications can be sent by mail, by fax, or by e-mail (if sent by e-mail, please scan the application and send as an attachment so that signatures are visible) to:

Council of Colleges of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine
PO Box 65120
Baltimore, MD 21209
Fax: 410-464-6042
ccaomcnt@comcast.net

If you fax your application to us, please call to confirm receipt, as faxes are not always successfully transmitted.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you do not receive the acceptance materials approximately one month before the course date, you must contact us to find out why. Not receiving the acceptance materials is not a legitimate reason for missing a class, as we do not always receive (or are able to process) every application.

Sincerely,

Paula Diamond
CCAOM CNT Program Manager

Committed to Excellence in Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Education

SB 2191 Acupuncture Bill
Lezlie Link, ND
House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
March 12, 2015

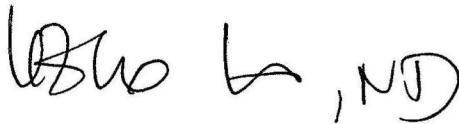
#2
2191
3-12-15

Good morning Madam Chair and Members of the House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee. My name is Dr. Lezlie Link. I am a doctor of naturopathic medicine residing and practicing in Bismarck. I am also the chairperson for the North Dakota Board of Integrative Health Care, which regulates the profession of naturopathic medicine.

The board has chosen a position of neutral with regards to the scope of acupuncture to be potentially added to the North Dakota Board of Integrative Health Care, however, the board does feel that the ND BIHC is an appropriate board to regulate the profession of acupuncture. The ND BIHC was created to help ease the financial burden of small professions requiring a board. Currently, the ND BIHC regulates naturopathic doctors and music therapists.

If you have any questions, I can provide additional information as you work on this bill in committee work. I can be reached via email, dr.lezlielink@gmail.com.

Thank you for your time in this matter,



Lezlie Link, ND

To: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
From: Adriane Maag, M.Om., Dipl. Ac.
Date: March 12, 2015
Re: Testimony in support of SB 2191 Acupuncture Licensure Bill

#3
2191
3-12-15

Dear Mister Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Adriane Maag and I am an acupuncturist living in Fargo. I grew up in Fargo, and knew that I would be returning home upon graduation in December of 2011. I help people stay happy, healthy and whole. More people are turning to acupuncture as an adjunctive therapy to their current health plan. As patient frustration grows from taking pills in an attempt to solve their medical ailments, they start to look for an alternative that is more natural or holistic. Acupuncture triggers the body's natural ability to heal itself. It is safe, effective and natural. It is one of the oldest ongoing medicines in the world, having at least 2,000 years of recorded history. The World Health Organization has listed symptoms, diseases and conditions that have been shown through controlled trials to be treated effectively by acupuncture. Please see the attached article for more details. Over 50% of my patients are seeking acupuncture treatments for pain management. This is because they are no longer are getting relief from their medications, or no longer want to be taking numerous medications. In addition, many couples use acupuncture to help with fertility.

Patients are asked to complete a confidential health questionnaire and are informed that acupuncturists follow HIPAA (health privacy) guidelines just like a doctor's office. The health questionnaire is very important to the treatment plan. It is thorough and extensive, providing the practitioner a whole body overview of how each patient's body is functioning in terms of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM). Based on patient information I am able to determine, and customize, the specific points to use for each patient. We visit in a relaxing treatment room, discussing any health concerns the patient has. We focus on the main complaint that brought them in as well as any other areas of discomfort in regards to their health. We talk about the type (constant, intermittent, better at night or day, etc.) and quality (sharp, burning, tingling, aching, etc.) of pain or discomfort, how it affects daily living or sleep, and what makes it better or worse. After going over their health history, I explain to my patients what acupuncture is going to specifically do for their ailment. Often times, acupuncture is done while you are wearing your street clothes, just rolling up sleeves or pant legs and taking off shoes and socks. After the needles are inserted, the patient rests and relaxes with quiet music. Relaxation time is typically 20-30 minutes. A midday nap, quiet time for personal reflection, or just time for you away from work, kids/family is never a complaint anyone has about their acupuncture treatment. After needles are removed, one can go about the rest of the day with their normal daily activity level.

With each new patient I stress how needles are handled and disposed of. They are sterile, single use needles that are the width of 2 human hairs. The skin is cleaned with isopropyl alcohol prior to receiving acupuncture. The needles are disposed into sharps containers as medical waste. They are NEVER reused. The approved acupuncture programs all have clean needle training as a part of the curriculum in order to enter student clinic, as well as graduate. In order to be nationally certified, one must receive Clean Needle Technique, or CNT, certification. The course is rigorous, with both theoretical and practical components. It includes lecture, demonstration, as well as written and practical examinations. This CNT coursework totals approximately 15-18 hours.

Every day acupuncturists are exposed to blood borne pathogens. Knowing how to properly handle and dispose of needles is of utmost importance in the acupuncture profession. Forty-four states plus the District of Columbia, as well as on the national level, have standards and certifications that are already in place for those who meet the requirements to receive the title licensed acupuncturist, or L.Ac. The fact that there are currently no regulations in place for the state of North Dakota is extremely disconcerting to me and my colleagues, drawing on the issue of public protection.

Please see the following page for the attachments to my testimony. Thank you for your time, it is greatly appreciated.

Warmly,



Adriane Maag, M.Om., Dipl. Ac.

(Masters of Science in Oriental Medicine, Diplomate of Acupuncture (NCCAOM))

Acupuncturist

Adriane Maag's practitioner testimony attachments.

6. Amaro, John. "What Conditions Does Acupuncture Treat (According to the World Health Organization)?" . *Acupuncture Today*. October 2004. Vol 05 Issue 10 .
7. Tanya Boehland, patient testimony on using acupuncture for pain.
8. Joy Navratil, patient testimony on the difference of receiving acupuncture from a master's degree-trained acupuncturist and a chiropractor.
9. Brittany Petrick, student testimony on how she chose not to return to practice in ND due to lack of licensure here.
10. Alexandra Matthew's student testimony on the popularity of acupuncture and how she urges ND to provide acupuncture licensing.
11. NCCAOM's list of states that license acupuncturists.
<http://mx.nccaom.org/StateLicensing.aspx>

What Conditions Does Acupuncture Treat (According to the World Health Organization)?

By John Amaro, LAc, DC, Dipl. Ac.(NCCAOM), Dipl.Med.Ac.(IAMA)

In contemporary applications of acupuncture in North America, it is becoming increasingly common to hear patients complain that they are being challenged by their insurance carrier with the comment that acupuncture is not effective for a particular situation, and therefore coverage is denied.

Of course, it is obvious that insurance companies are in the business to minimize costs, and escalate productivity and profit. As a result, it is not uncommon or unlikely that our patients will be denied coverage only because the insurance carrier has deemed acupuncture is not an effective or approved treatment.

The World Health Organization (WHO), whose authority concerning health-related matters internationally cannot be challenged, has compiled a list of symptoms, syndromes, disease processes, pathologies, traumas and conditions that have definitely been proven as effectively treated by acupuncture. The WHO has also compiled a list of diseases, symptoms and conditions for which acupuncture has shown definite therapeutic effects, but more proof is needed to establish acupuncture as a mainstream form of treatment. Should a curious patient, insurance company or colleague require proof of acupuncture's effectiveness, the following list is something you will want to keep on file. Its use will be inevitable.

In an official report, *Acupuncture: Review and Analysis of Reports on Controlled Clinical Trials*, the WHO (WHO) has listed the following symptoms, diseases and conditions that have been shown through controlled trials to be treated effectively by acupuncture:

- low back pain
- neck pain
- sciatica
- tennis elbow
- knee pain
- periarthrititis of the shoulder
- sprains
- facial pain (including craniomandibular disorders)
- headache
- dental pain
- temporomandibular (TMJ) dysfunction
- rheumatoid arthritis
- induction of labor
- correction of malposition of fetus (breech presentation)
- morning sickness
- nausea and vomiting
- postoperative pain
- stroke
- essential hypertension
- primary hypotension
- renal colic
- leucopenia
- adverse reactions to radiation or chemotherapy
- allergic rhinitis, including hay fever
- biliary colic
- depression (including depressive neurosis and depression following stroke)
- acute bacillary dysentery
- primary dysmenorrhea
- acute epigastralgia
- peptic ulcer
- acute and chronic gastritis

The foregoing list is absolute concerning acupuncture's effectiveness; however the report continues with three more categories:

1. Diseases, symptoms and conditions for which the therapeutic effect of acupuncture has been shown, but further proof is needed (68 specific conditions). These conditions are effectively treated as in the first category; it's just that more trials are necessary to establish the proof scientifically.
2. Diseases, symptoms and conditions reporting some therapeutic effects for which acupuncture is worth trying (nine conditions).
3. Diseases, symptoms and conditions in which acupuncture may be tried, provided the practitioner has special modern medical knowledge and adequate monitoring equipment (eight conditions).

P.5

To: Government and Veteran Affairs Committee

From: Tanya Boehland

Date: January 21, 2015

RE: Testimony in support of SB 2191 Acupuncture Licensure Bill

Mister Chairman and Members of the Committee;

My name is Tanya Boehland. I have lived in Fargo, ND since 1995. I am a North Dakota licensed Reflexologist and have a full time practice in Fargo. I have found Acupuncture to greatly help me in several personal traumatic situations involving my hands. I will tell you about my first time.

I was first introduced to Traditional Chinese Acupuncture for pain and trauma relief in 2010. I had just spent two 11 hour days peeling sandbags off pallets to help create a seven foot tall - 100,000 unit sandbag dike in my neighborhood during the 2010 spring flood. I sought out acupuncture treatment the next day for my crippled wrists that were spasming from sandbagging overuse. It was a very painful and frightening situation for me because I needed my hands to do my job, and function in general. After receiving just one acupuncture treatment which included needle placements all over my body (not just my hands), I was nearly pain free, and had almost complete full range of motion return to each of my wrists. I was amazed at the dramatic results because just the year before - during the 2009 flood - I suffered the same wrist symptoms after a same intense neighborhood flood fight. I treated my wrists that year with advil, ice, massage, and chiropractic treatment. I did not have normal use of my hands for almost full two months following that traumatic 2009 ordeal.

I don't know of any other therapy that could have helped me as effectively as Acupuncture proved to with my past hand injuries. In my opinion, nothing in Western-based medicine can duplicate the healing and health effects of Traditional Chinese Acupuncture.

Thank you for your time. I can be reached at 701-566-2904 for any questions.

Most Sincerely,



22 Jan 2015

Tanya S. Boehland
3327 46th Ave. S.
Fargo, ND 58104

P. 6

CONCORDIA COLLEGE

Global Learning

1/15/2015

To: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
From: Joy Navratil, Study Away Coordinator, Concordia College
Re: Testimony in support of SB 2191 Acupuncture Licensure Bill

Dear Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Members,

I am a North Dakota resident writing in support of North Dakota licensing its acupuncturist (SB 2191 Acupuncture Licensure Bill). I have been doing acupuncture since 2007 for a variety of health concerns. I experienced insomnia for approximately 2 months and the first night I slept was after an acupuncture appointment. I have noticed significant improvement in my health after to acupuncture treatments. Additionally, I enjoy the relaxing benefits of acupuncture.

I have seen three different individuals for acupuncture therapy. The first was a homeopathic physician who had the proper acupuncture schooling and the third earned her master's degree in acupuncture. After seeing the homeopathic doctor for acupuncture in my home town I wanted to find someone in Fargo who I could see for acupuncture. At this time I did not know there was a difference in the amount of acupuncture schooling/training that one completed and ended up going to a chiropractor who did acupuncture. I saw no improvement for my health ailments by receiving acupuncture treatment from the chiropractor. Furthermore, during treatment I didn't experience the relaxing effect that I experienced with my previous acupuncture provider. I was so disappointed that I never went back and did some research to find a person that had a master's degree in acupuncture for treatment. That's when I found my current acupuncturist who received her master's degree in acupuncture and have been going to her ever since.

As someone who has visited a chiropractor with the minimum acupuncture training and two others who have been properly educated in acupuncture, I know firsthand how important it is to receive treatment from someone who knows what they are doing. Acupuncturist professionals deeply care about their patients' health concerns and want them to receive the best possible care by a trained professional and I think the state of North Dakota should honor that wish by licensing acupuncturist who have a master's degree/homeopathic medicine degree.

Please feel free to contact me for further questioning about my experience.



Joy Navratil
Study Away Coordinator
Concordia College
Global Learning
W: 218.299.3186
C: 701.730.4002
E: jnavrati@cord.edu

Home Address:
1001 17th Street South
Fargo, ND 58103

TO: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

From: Brittany Petrick, RN, BSN

1/16/15

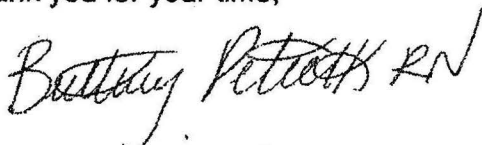
Re: Testimony in support of SB 2191 Acupuncture Licensure Bill

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support to pass this bill so that North Dakota will license its acupuncturists. I am from Rocklake ND, grew up in North Dakota, and went to nursing school in Jamestown ND. I decided to further my healthcare education by going back to school for my Master's in Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine. I am currently attending Southwest Acupuncture College in Boulder CO, which is a four year Master's program consisting of 3,092.5 hours.

I will graduate in 2016 and have chosen not to move back to North Dakota as it is a state that does not offer licensure for acupuncturists. I strongly urge you to pass this bill as it will have a positive impact on North Dakota and its citizens. This bill would ensure that practitioners are competent in their profession, making ethical decisions, and maintaining their competency through continuing education and recertification. All of this means safe and effective practice to protect the public.

Thank you for your time,



Brittany Petrick, RN, BSN

Denver CO

(701)550-0089


To: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
From: Alexandra Matthews
Date: January 16, 2015
Re: Testimony in support of SB 2191 Acupuncture Licensure Bill

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee.

As a future health care professional, the licensure of acupuncture in the state of North Dakota is very important to my future career and success. In 2012, I received my Bachelors of Science in Biology with an emphasis in health and medical sciences from Minnesota State University-Moorhead. I also graduated with a minor in Anthropology. The ambitions of receiving my Masters Degree in Oriental medicine were set in place long before I graduated. I decided this was the best path for my education and future career for many reasons. There is a need for holistic medicine in the state of North Dakota. In other parts of the country, you can easily receive acupuncture treatments without having to travel long distances. In North Dakota, the practitioners are low in numbers. This makes it difficult for people that choose to use acupuncture for their diseases to receive proper treatment and care. The popularity of acupuncture is on the rise in the Midwestern states. Along the coasts, it has already taken hold and is used in hospitals and other health care settings. I feel there is a large market for this type of work in the future in North Dakota. This would create more jobs and create a better health care experience for patients. Acupuncture works for a variety of symptoms and diseases. It can be used to treat the common cold or it can be used to treat the side effects caused by life saving medications for a person being treated for diabetes that is experiencing neuropathy. The positive outcomes from the use of acupuncture are endless and I'm excited to be a part of the movement.

I was born and raised in the state of North Dakota. My family has owned small businesses in the state dating all the way back to my Great Grandfather, Milo Matthews. I will be carrying on that "family tradition" by returning to the state to open an acupuncture clinic when I finish school. North Dakota is my home. I could not choose a better place to open a small business and start my career. Currently, 44 states provide licensure in the field of acupuncture. North Dakota is one of 6 states that does not. I am confident that this will soon change. I feel having licensure in the state is best for me and for my patients. It creates a level of protection for all parties involved in healthcare treatment and also will give a sense of comfort to the patients that I am licensed to complete a task that benefits their health. After 7 years of intense education, being able to receive a license in the state I will be practicing in will be very meaningful and well deserved.

Thank you for your time,

Alexandra Matthews

Masters of Acupuncture Student
Northwestern Health Sciences

Resident of Fargo, North Dakota



National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine



My Profile Page NCCAOM Certification PDA Search Engine Find A Practitioner State Licensing Helpful NCCAOM Links

State Licensing

State Licensing Requirements List

Although a majority of states require the NCCAOM examination or certification, each state regulatory board carries unique requirements for licensure. As a service to our Diplomates and candidates, a table of requirements for each state can be viewed clicking the "View Website" link for each state. In addition, this table provides the contact list for each state regulatory agency. **Although NCCAOM regularly updates the information contained in table, the NCCAOM does not guarantee the accuracy of the information. State rules and regulations are subject to change; therefore, you should always confirm current requirements for licensure with your state board.**

Name	Practice Acupuncture	Certification Required	FOMM	ACU	PLM	BIO	CHE	State Website
Alabama	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	
Alaska	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
Arizona	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
Arkansas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
California	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	View Website
Colorado	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
Connecticut	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	View Website
Delaware	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	View Website
District of Columbia	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	View Website
Florida	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	View Website
Georgia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
Hawaii	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	View Website
Idaho	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
Illinois	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
Indiana	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
Iowa	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
Kansas	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	
Kentucky	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
Louisiana	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	View Website
Maine	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
Maryland	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	View Website
Massachusetts	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	View Website View Notes
Michigan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
Minnesota	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
Mississippi	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
Missouri	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
Montana	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	View Website
Nebraska	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	View Website
Nevada	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	View Website View Notes
New Hampshire	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
New Jersey	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	View Website View Notes
New Mexico	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	View Website
New York	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	View Website
North Carolina	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
North Dakota	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	
Ohio	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	View Website

								View Notes
Oklahoma	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	
Oregon	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
Pennsylvania	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	View Website View Notes
Rhode Island	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
South Carolina	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
South Dakota	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	
Tennessee	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
Texas	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	View Website
Utah	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
Vermont	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	View Website View Notes
Virginia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
Washington	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	View Website
West Virginia	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	View Website
Wisconsin	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	View Website
Wyoming	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	

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2191
3-12-15

Government and Affairs Committee

Testimony in support of Senate Bill 2191 - Acupuncture Licensing Bill

Date 12 March 2015

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Stephanie Belohlavek-Geiger and I am a resident of Mandan. I served honorably in the United States Marine Corps and am currently a readjustment counselor for the Bismarck Vet Center where I counsel combat veterans and their families. I am also a Co-founder of the Dakota Sisterhood of Women Veterans.

Due to my military service, I have been diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, which created secondary health symptoms such as anxiety, depression and insomnia among other health issues. Some of these other issues lead to surgery in 2008, which is when my Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) began.

Before Acupuncture I was using Methotrexate to control my RA where the side effects from the medicine were more debilitating to me than the effects of the disease. My Rheumatologist told my husband and me that I would be in a wheel chair within 6 months of my diagnosis due to the severity of my RA. That was a tough diagnosis to hear when you are a forty-one old mother of five.

Prior to the onset of RA, I was working part time for the Bismarck Vet Center, a full time student at the University of Mary working on my undergraduate degree, and owned and operated a lawn care service. I was running and lifting weights a minimum of five days a week, and loved to cook and garden for my husband and our children. Needless to say, I was very active prior to RA entering my life.

RA and the subsequent treatments left me too tired and stiff to function with numerous swollen joints to the point where it was a physical and emotional struggle to get out of bed in the morning, let alone go to work. It was increasingly difficult to focus or complete assigned schoolwork, to take care of my children, or to maintain any physical activity. Crocheting and running were my primary coping mechanisms I used when struggling with my PTSD symptoms and RA left me unable to do either. My life at this point was a day-to-day struggle.

Early on in my journey with RA, I was encouraged by a chiropractor to give acupuncture a try. Since my illness, I have an intense fear of needles and kept finding excuses not to make an appointment. Unfortunately for me that was a poor reason not try acupuncture. Because I was unwilling to try something new,

I was left with years of fighting a body that did not allow me to complete daily activities without help.

My first treatment with acupuncture was in April of 2012. I was having a particularly intense flare that would not level off. My fingers were swollen to the point where I could not bend them and my wrists and ankles were severely affected. My wrists would not rotate and I could not walk without holding on to something. Again the chiropractor encouraged me to try acupuncture, saying he had been researching acupuncture and felt it could be beneficial for me. I finally called and made an appointment; one of the best decisions I have made concerning not only my fight with RA but for my overall well-being.

After my first session, I remember getting in my vehicle and calling my husband where I shared my experience with him. The inflammation in my hands was showing marked signs of reduced swelling and noticeable increased mobility. I could not understand how a few placed needles could have that much impact after one treatment.

To me, acupuncture is more of a total body form of therapy and helped my body as a whole not just with the RA, to include some of my PTSD symptoms. After treatment to help with stress and anxiety, I was able to sleep more than a couple of hours at a time, which my body needed to help the healing process. Within a short time frame I was once again walking, slow jogging, able to do some light lifting and even able to open doors which I hadn't been able to do for a number of years.

In roughly a year I was no longer on the Methotrexate, my liver enzymes were back to normal and I was in the process of regaining a semblance of my old life style. Acupuncture cannot rebuild the joints that were damaged, but from my experience, acupuncture appears to be able to maintain the joints that are still functional. The RA medication is so hard on a persons vital organs especially the heart and liver, not to mention numerous other side effects. Acupuncture has given me an opportunity to experience activities I thought I would never be able to enjoy again.

Stephanie Belohlavek-Geiger MSW,LCSW
Readjustment Counselor, Bismarck Vet Center
Self employed -Lawn Service
Co-Founder Dakota Sisterhood of Women Veterans

Warrior Clinic reduces pain medication use

July 2, 2011

by Joshua L. Wick



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The pain management program at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center Warrior Clinic has drastically reduced the number of wounded warriors receiving prescribed pain medication.

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, April 29, 2011) -- The pain management program at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center Warrior Clinic has drastically reduced the number of wounded warriors receiving prescribed pain medication.

Through a combination of administering painkillers differently at the onset of injury, alternative pain treatment methods and increased oversight of prescribed painkillers, the percentage of Soldiers at the clinic using prescribed narcotics has dropped from 83 percent in 2008, to just 10.2 percent in 2011.

"It's a holistic, interdisciplinary, and multi-modal approach," said Dr. Christopher Spevak, an anesthesiologist and pain physician at the Warrior Clinic. "Pain management is not simply giving opioids."

He explained that opioids are a class of prescription narcotics that include such drugs as morphine, codeine and oxycodone.

According to Spevak, in the last couple of years research has shown that if doctors effectively treat pain at the onset, they can prevent the "rewiring" of the patient's brain and prevent chronic pain later on. Treating acute pain as close to the time of injury, with the appropriate medication, is just one part of this multidisciplinary approach.

"There are many ways to treat pain initially; opioids are part of the whole pie," Spevak said. "We have regional techniques and we have gone forward right into the battlefield and placed regional catheters to infuse local anesthetics to numb the area."

The Warrior Clinic has also devoted a significant amount of resources into looking at alternative methods for managing and minimizing pain.

The alternative solutions include training sessions that can help Soldiers deal with pain in ways other than with medications. Included are options like acupuncture, chiropractic therapy, yoga and biofeedback.

The dynamic and holistic approach to addressing and treating pain uses a wide variety of resources that look at the mind, body, and cognitive behaviors of the Soldier as well as incorporating and educating the Soldiers families into the treatment and overall management of pain, officials said.

Also part of the program is monitoring prescription use to make sure Soldiers are only getting the medications they need, and in the dosages they need, and only for as long as they need them.

Elements of the policy include appropriate tracking and monitoring of Soldiers and their medications, controlling quantities, and prescribing the right medication at the right time.

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