



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 26-1042: DRY NEEDLING BY OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS

Prime Sponsors:

Rep. Feret
Sen. Ball

Fiscal Analyst:

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Published for: House Health & Human Services**Drafting number:** LLS 26-0262**Version:** Initial Fiscal Note**Date:** January 26, 2026**Fiscal note status:** The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill allows occupational therapists to perform dry needling.**Types of impacts.** The bill is projected to affect the following areas on an ongoing basis:

- Minimal State Workload
- Minimal State Revenue

Appropriations. No appropriation is required.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures	\$0	\$0
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE

Summary of Legislation

Beginning September 1, 2027, the bill allows occupational therapists to perform dry needling, if qualified and with written informed consent from the patient. The Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) must establish all necessary requirements and process any complaints.

State Revenue

The bill may increase state revenue to the extent there are additional fines levied against occupational therapists for disciplinary actions. Given that regulated professionals are assumed to have a high level of compliance, any impact is anticipated to be minimal.

State Expenditures

The bill will minimally increase workload in DORA for rulemaking, outreach, and complaint processing. Because DORA already oversees occupational therapists and professions that currently perform dry needling, this workload can be absorbed within existing resources.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Public Health and Environment

Regulatory Agencies