

**Support SB 13-172 Sunset Review Continue Acupuncture Regulation**

Senator Linda Newell  
Representative Joann Ginal

**Background:****Acupuncture:**

- There are roughly 1,100 licensed acupuncturists in Colorado.
- One of the oldest healing arts and has been practiced for thousands of years.
- Involves using thin, solid metal needles to penetrate the skin and stimulate anatomical points as a means of improving and maintaining health.
- The Director of the Division of Professions and Occupations within DORA has the authority to regulate acupuncturists.
- To qualify for a Colorado acupuncturist license, applicants must:
  - Have completed an accredited acupuncture program including over 2500 hours of class and clinical work
  - Possess national certification from the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine which involves passing three (3) examinations.

In 1989, the Colorado General Assembly passed SB 89-009 which instituted the regulation of acupuncturists. It requires acupuncturists to complete an accredited acupuncturist education program, current certification, and possess professional liability insurance. Colorado law defines their practice as: the insertion and removal of acupuncture needles, application of heat therapies to specific areas of the human body, and traditional and modern oriental adjunctive therapies. The director of the Department of Regulatory Agencies is responsible for investigating complaints against acupuncturists.

**This bill:**

**Continues to regulate acupuncturists based on recommendations in DORA report.**

**Benefits of SB 13-172 are:**

- Regulation assures that acupuncturists meet minimum standards of competence. Through its licensing, rulemaking, disciplinary activities, the acupuncturist licensing program protects the public health, safety, and welfare of Coloradans.
- Allows for a fair marketplace of licensed acupuncture professionals.