
DIGEST

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HB 792 Original

2016 Regular Session

Adams

Abstract: Makes changes to law applicable to massage therapists and respective establishments.

Present law generally provides that the "practice of massage therapy" means the manipulation of soft tissue for the purpose of maintaining good health and establishing and maintaining good physical condition. Provides for certain types of massage therapy such as acupuncture and reflexology.

Proposed law retains present law and adds "trigger point therapy" as a type of massage therapy.

Proposed law prohibits unlicensed support personnel from acts of purporting to be massage therapists and the offering of stand alone massage services to the public with or without supervision of a supervising licensed professional.

Proposed law provides for the Louisiana Board of Massage Therapy's (board) initial inspection of all newly licensed massage establishments within 45 days of the date of the establishment's opening.

Present law provides for continuing education with respect to massage therapists. Proposed law retains present law and requires continuing education classes to be approved by at least 1 appointed board member.

Present law provides certain licensing requirements for applicants seeking licensing from the board. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires an applicant's passage of a board approved national examination. Proposed law retains present law and further requires the board to receive applicants' test scores directly from the issuing agency of the exam.

Present law requires an applicant's U.S. citizenship or legal residency. Proposed law retains present law and further provides for proof of citizenship or legal residency to be provided through the applicant's submitted copy of a government issued form of ID. Further requires a board or staff member to verify the validity of the ID.

Present law requires an applicant's certain fluency in the English language. Proposed law retains present law and further requires applicants to pass a board-administered English proficiency test if the person is licensed out-of-state.

Beginning with the 2017 renewal cycle for licenses, proposed law requires persons who were

licensed outside of the state of La. within the last 10 years to meet the licensing requirements in both present law and proposed law.

Present law provides for certain regulations with respect to advertising of massage therapy. Proposed law retains present law and adds that advertisements of pictorial representations of massage therapy, including video representations, are to contain depictions of massage therapists who are professionally attired and non-seductively posed. Further requires for persons representing clients to be appropriately draped and posed.

Proposed law authorizes state, municipal, or city enforcement representatives or officials to enforce provisions of present law and proposed law made applicable to massage therapists and establishments. Prohibits such representatives or officials from imposing any additional rules or ordinances regarding zoning, educational requirements, or fees for licensure.

Proposed law repeals a present law provision that exempted an out-of-state applicant from taking a certain board-approved 500 hour course and national examination.

Proposed law repeals an expired termination date with respect to credit hours of courses of study.

(Amends R.S. 37:3552(10), 3555(A)(2) and (B)(2), 3556(A)(intro. para.) and (1)(a) and (2) through (6) and (B)(1); Adds R.S. 37:3553(B)(3), 3556(A)(7), 3561(F), 3564(C), and 3567(C); Repeals R.S. 37:3556(B)(2) and 3556.1(B))