

2025 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 221

BY SENATORS MIZELL, ABRAHAM, BARROW, BOUDREAUX, CARTER, CLOUD,  
HENRY, HENSGENS, JACKSON-ANDREWS, LUNEAU, PRICE  
AND STINE

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

FEES/LICENSES/PERMITS. Provides relative to massage therapy. (8/1/25)

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 37:3555(A)(11) and (14)(a) and 3561(A) and to enact R.S.  
37:3553(D), 3558(E), 3565(C), and 3569, relative to massage therapy; to provide  
relative to powers and duties of the board; to provide relative to licensure and  
renewals; to provide for criminal background checks; to provide for inspections and  
complaints; to provide for penalties; to provide for applicability; to provide for  
accountability and reporting to the legislature; to provide for terms, conditions,  
procedures, and enforcement; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 37:3555(A)(11) and (14)(a) and 3561(A) are hereby amended and  
reenacted and R.S. 37:3553(D), 3558(E), 3565(C), and 3569 are hereby enacted to read as  
follows:

§3553. Application of Chapter; exceptions and exemptions

\* \* \*

**D. Nothing in this Title shall prohibit the board from adopting rules that  
are related to preventing fraud, abuse, human trafficking, or other criminal  
activity.**

A. The board shall:

(11) Develop a process to review all complaints made to the board, except  
any complaint alleging illicit activity at a massage therapist establishment shall  
result in an unannounced, in-person inspection by the board within ten days of  
the board receiving the complaint.

(14)(a) Be entitled to the criminal history record and identification files of the bureau of **any person who is licensed or applying for a massage therapist establishment license with the board or** any person who is licensed or is applying to be licensed with the board in order to determine an applicant's suitability for licensure. Fingerprints and other identifying information of the applicant shall be submitted to the bureau for qualification and registry, and the bureau shall, upon request of the board and after receipt of the fingerprint card and other identifying information from the applicant, make available to the board all arrest and conviction information contained in the bureau's criminal history record and identification files that pertain to the applicant for licensure. In addition, the fingerprints shall be forwarded by the bureau to the FBI for a national criminal history record check.

### §3558. Massage establishments

**E. A massage establishment shall not be used as a principal or temporary domicile for, to shelter or harbor, or as sleeping or napping quarters for any person unless the establishment is zoned for residential use under a local ordinance.**

### §3561. License renewal requirements

1 A.(1) Each license shall be renewed annually, on or before its expiration date  
2 by submitting a renewal application form; and payment of the renewal fee specified  
3 in R.S. 37:3562, ~~and providing.~~ **Each licensed massage therapist shall provide**  
4 ~~evidence that the licensee has completed~~ **of the completion of** continuing education  
5 requirements, as established by rule of the board.

6 (2)(a) Beginning with the renewal cycle of April 1, 2022, any excess  
7 continuing education credits may be applied to the following year only after a  
8 licensee has satisfied the license renewal requirements.

9 (b)(i) The board ~~may~~ **shall** require any renewing applicant licensed prior to  
10 April 1, 2022, **who has not previously submitted** to ~~submit to~~ a state and federal  
11 background check as described in R.S. 37:3555(A)(14) **with the board, to submit**  
12 **to such background check prior to the license being renewed.**

13 (ii) **The board shall require any renewing applicant registered prior to**  
14 **August 1, 2025, who has not previously submitted to a state and federal**  
15 **background check as described in R.S. 37:3555(A)(14) with the board, to submit**  
16 **to such background check prior to the registration being renewed.**

17 (iii) In order to renew, an applicant shall not have pled guilty to or been  
18 convicted of any sex-related crime, crime of violence, or crime related to the practice  
19 of massage therapy.

20 \* \* \*

21 §3565. Penalties

22 \* \* \*

23 **C.(1) A massage therapy establishment shall have its license**  
24 **automatically revoked by the board if any owner, manager, or supervisor**  
25 **violates the provisions of this Chapter when the violation occurs either in or in**  
26 **connection with the operation of the massage therapy establishment.**

27 **(2) After a revocation of a massage therapy establishment license**  
28 **pursuant to this Subsection, no occupational license, permit, or massage therapy**  
29 **establishment license shall be issued by a local governing authority or the board**

1 for the operation of a massage therapy establishment at that same premises or  
2 address of the revoked licensee.

3 \* \* \*

4 **§3569. Annual reporting requirements**

5 **A. The board shall submit an annual report to the legislature no later**  
6 **than March first of each year which shall include the following information:**

7 **(1) The total number of complaints received during the preceding**  
8 **calendar year.**

9 **(2) A summary of each complaint received, including the nature of the**  
10 **alleged violation.**

11 **(3) A summary of each complaint involving repeat offenders.**

12 **(4) The total number of inspections conducted during the preceding**  
13 **calendar year and the results of each inspection, including the total number of**  
14 **unlicensed massage therapist establishments and unlicensed massage therapists**  
15 **discovered during each inspection.**

16 **(5) The total number of active massage therapist licensees and massage**  
17 **therapist establishment licenses, the number of new massage therapist and**  
18 **massage therapist establishment licenses issued during the preceding year, the**  
19 **total number of massage therapist and massage therapist establishment licenses**  
20 **renewed during the preceding year, and the total number of massage therapist**  
21 **and massage therapist establishment licenses suspended or revoked during the**  
22 **previous year.**

23 **B. For each complaint investigated and resolved, the report shall include**  
24 **at minimum:**

25 **(1) A description of the outcome or resolution of each complaint.**

26 **(2) Whether the complaint resulted in any of the following actions:**

27 **(a) Issuance of a warning or cease and desist order.**

28 **(b) Imposition of a fine.**

29 **(c) Suspension or revocation of an individual or massage therapist**

establishment license.

(d) Referral to law enforcement or another regulatory body.

(e) Any other action.

(3) Name and title of the board member or investigator assigned to handle the complaint, as well as the date the complaint was filed and the date investigation proceedings commenced and the final resolution date, if the investigation is resolved.

(4) Any administrative or legal proceedings arising out of the complaint.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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#### DIGEST

SB 221 Reengrossed

2025 Regular Session

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Present law provides for the licensure and regulation of the practice of massage therapy.

Present law requires the La. Board of Massage Therapy (board) to develop a process to review all complaints made to the board.

Proposed law retains present law and requires the board to conduct an unannounced, in-person inspection by the board of all complaints alleging illicit activity at a massage therapy establishment, within 10 days of receiving the complaint.

Proposed law allows the board to adopt rules that are related to preventing fraud, abuse, human trafficking, or other criminal activity.

Present law requires the board to receive a criminal background check for any person who is licensed or is applying to be licensed with the board.

Proposed law retains present law and requires the board to receive a criminal background check for any person who is applying for a massage therapist establishment license with the board.

Proposed law prohibits a massage therapy establishment from being used as a living or sleeping quarter, unless the establishment is located in a zone designated for residential use under a local ordinance.

Present law allows the board to require any renewing applicants, licensed prior to April 1, 2022, to submit to a state and federal background check.

Proposed law requires all renewing applicants who have not previously submitted to a state and federal background check prior to licensing renewal to submit to a state and federal background check.

Present law provides that a violation of present law is punishable by a fine of no more than one thousand dollars or up to six months in jail, or both. Further provides that upon conviction, the owner or operator of the massage establishment is barred from obtaining a

massage therapist or establishment license for up to five years.

Proposed law retains present law and further provides that if any owner, manager, or supervisor of a massage therapy establishment violates present law in connection with the operation of the massage therapy establishment, the establishment license will be revoked by the board.

Proposed law provides that after an establishment license is revoked, no occupational license, permit, or massage therapy establishment license shall be reissued for the same premises by either the board or a local governing authority.

Proposed law requires the board to submit an annual report to the legislature, no later than March 1st of each year with the following information:

- (1) The total number of complaints received.
- (2) A summary of each complaint received including the nature of the violation.
- (3) A summary of complaints involving repeat offenders.
- (4) The total number of all inspections conducted during the preceding calendar year.
- (5) The total number of active licenses of both individual massage therapist and massage therapist establishments and the number of new licenses, renewals, suspensions, and revocations.

Proposed law provides for each complaint investigated and resolved; the report shall include:

- (1) A description of the outcome or resolution.
- (2) Results of the complaint.
- (3) Name and title of the board member or investigator assigned to handle the complaint, as well as the date the complaint was filed and the date the investigation commenced and was resolved.
- (4) Any administrative or legal action arising out of a complaint.

Effective August 1, 2025.

(Amends R.S. 37:3555(A)(11) and (14)(a) and 3561(A)(2)(b); adds R.S.37:3553(D), 3558(E), 3565(C) and 3569)

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

##### Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International Affairs to the original bill

1. Requires that violations by an owner, manager, or supervisor of a massage therapy establishment result in a revocation of a massage establishment license and prohibits a new license or occupational license, permit, or massage therapy establishment license from being issued for the same location.

##### Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Prohibit massage establishments from being used as a living quarter unless the establishment is located in a residential zone.

2. Require renewing applicants without a prior background check to complete a state and federal background check.
3. Allow the board to adopt rules that are related to preventing fraud, abuse, human trafficking, or other criminal activity.
4. Make technical changes.