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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1875**

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**State of Washington**

**55th Legislature**

**1997 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Health Care (originally sponsored by Representatives Skinner, Carlson, Radcliff, Cody, Murray, Hatfield and O'Brien)

Read first time 03/05/97.

1 AN ACT Relating to updating terminology in chapter 18.108 RCW;  
2 amending RCW 18.108.005, 18.108.010, and 18.108.050; and creating a new  
3 section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.108.005 and 1987 c 443 s 1 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7 The legislature finds it necessary to license the practice of  
8 massage and massage therapy in order to protect the public health and  
9 safety. It is the legislature's intent that only individuals who meet  
10 and maintain minimum standards of competence and conduct may provide  
11 services to the public. This chapter shall not be construed to require  
12 or prohibit individual or group policies or contracts of an insurance  
13 carrier, health care service contractor, or health maintenance  
14 organization from providing benefits or coverage for services and  
15 supplies provided by a person (~~registered or certified~~) licensed  
16 under this chapter.

17 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.108.010 and 1991 c 3 s 252 are each amended to read  
18 as follows:

1 In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires, the  
2 following meanings shall apply:

3 (1) "Board" means the Washington state board of massage.

4 (2) "Massage" and "massage therapy" mean a health care service  
5 involving the external manipulation or pressure of soft tissue for  
6 therapeutic or licensed massage educational purposes. Massage therapy  
7 includes ~~((massage))~~ techniques such as ~~((methods of effleurage,~~  
8 ~~petrissage, tapotement,))~~ tapping, compressions, ~~((vibration,))~~  
9 friction, ~~((nerve stokes, and))~~ Swedish gymnastics or movements  
10 ~~((either by manual means, as they relate to massage)),~~ gliding,  
11 kneading, shaking, and facial or connective tissue stretching, with or  
12 without the aids of superficial heat, cold, water, lubricants, or  
13 salts. Massage therapy does not include diagnosis or attempts to  
14 adjust or manipulate any articulations of the body or spine or  
15 mobilization of these articulations by the use of a thrusting force,  
16 nor does it include genital manipulation.

17 (3) "Massage practitioner" means an individual licensed under this  
18 chapter.

19 (4) "Secretary" means the secretary of health or the secretary's  
20 designee.

21 (5) Massage business means the operation of a business where  
22 massages are given.

23 **Sec. 3.** RCW 18.108.050 and 1995 c 198 s 16 are each amended to  
24 read as follows:

25 This chapter does not apply to:

26 (1) An individual giving massage to members of his or her immediate  
27 family;

28 (2) The practice of a profession by individuals who are licensed,  
29 certified, or registered under other laws of this state and who are  
30 performing services within their authorized scope of practice;

31 (3) Massage practiced at the athletic department of any institution  
32 maintained by the public funds of the state, or any of its political  
33 subdivisions;

34 (4) Massage practiced at the athletic department of any school or  
35 college approved by the department by rule using recognized national  
36 professional standards;

37 (5) Students enrolled in an approved massage school, approved  
38 program, or approved apprenticeship program, practicing massage

1 techniques, incidental to the massage school or program and supervised  
2 by the approved school or program. Students must identify themselves  
3 as a student when performing massage services on members of the public.  
4 Students may not be compensated for the massage services they provide;  
5 (6) Individuals engaged in the practice of somatic education  
6 through nationally recognized organizations as determined by the  
7 secretary.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The department of health shall monitor the  
9 effects, if any, on the public health and safety of the exemption  
10 provided in RCW 18.108.050(6). The department shall report to the  
11 appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 1999, any  
12 instances of somatic educators violating RCW 18.108.085(3) with  
13 recommendations, if any, for regulatory or statutory changes.

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