
HOUSE BILL 2670

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Representatives Linville, Schoesler, Hunt, Kirby and Haigh

Read first time 01/23/2002. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Ecology.

1 AN ACT Relating to licensing animal massage therapists; and
2 amending RCW 18.108.010, 18.108.030, 18.108.040, 18.108.070,
3 18.108.073, 18.108.095, 18.108.100, 18.108.210, and 18.108.220.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.108.010 and 2001 c 297 s 2 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires, the
8 following meanings shall apply:

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

10 (2) "Massage" and "massage therapy" mean a health care service
11 involving the external manipulation or pressure of soft tissue for
12 therapeutic purposes. Massage therapy includes techniques such as
13 tapping, compressions, friction, Swedish gymnastics or movements,
14 gliding, kneading, shaking, and facial or connective tissue stretching,
15 with or without the aids of superficial heat, cold, water, lubricants,
16 or salts. Massage therapy does not include animal massage therapy or
17 diagnosis or attempts to adjust or manipulate any articulations of the
18 body or spine or mobilization of these articulations by the use of a
19 thrusting force, nor does it include genital manipulation.

1 (3) "Massage practitioner" means an individual licensed under this
2 chapter.

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

5 (5) "Massage business" means the operation of a business where
6 massages are given.

7 (6) "Animal massage practitioner" means an individual with a
8 license to practice massage therapy in this state with additional
9 training in animal therapy.

10 (7) "Animal massage therapist" means an individual licensed to
11 perform animal massage therapy as defined by the board in rule.

12 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.108.030 and 1995 c 198 s 15 are each amended to
13 read as follows:

14 (1) No person may practice or represent himself or herself as a
15 massage practitioner or an animal massage therapist without first
16 applying for and receiving from the department a license to practice.

17 (2) A person represents himself or herself as a massage
18 practitioner or an animal massage therapist when the person adopts or
19 uses any title or any description of services that incorporates one or
20 more of the following terms or designations: Massage, massage
21 practitioner, massage therapist, animal massage therapist, massage
22 therapy, animal massage therapy, therapeutic massage, massage
23 technician, massage technology, massagist, masseur, masseuse,
24 myotherapist or myotherapy, touch therapist, reflexologist,
25 acupressurist, body therapy or body therapist, or any derivation of
26 those terms that implies a massage technique or method.

27 **Sec. 3.** RCW 18.108.040 and 1995 c 353 s 1 are each amended to read
28 as follows:

29 It shall be unlawful to advertise the practice of massage using the
30 term massage or any other term that implies a massage technique or
31 method in any public or private publication or communication by a
32 person not licensed by the secretary as a massage practitioner or
33 animal massage therapist or without printing in display advertisement
34 the license number of the massage practitioner or animal massage
35 therapist. Any person who holds a license to practice as a massage
36 practitioner in this state may use the title "licensed massage
37 practitioner" and the abbreviation "L.M.P.". Any person who holds a

1 license to practice as an animal massage therapist in this state may
2 use the title "animal massage therapist" and the abbreviation "A.M.T.".
3 No other persons may assume ((such)) these titles or use ((such)) these
4 abbreviations or any other word, letters, signs, or figures to indicate
5 that the person using the title is a licensed massage practitioner or
6 a licensed animal massage therapist.

7 **Sec. 4.** RCW 18.108.070 and 1991 c 3 s 257 are each amended to read
8 as follows:

9 The secretary shall issue a massage practitioner's license or an
10 animal massage therapist's license to an applicant who demonstrates to
11 the secretary's satisfaction that the following requirements have been
12 met:

13 (1) ((Effective June 1, 1988,)) Successful completion of a course
14 of study in an approved ((massage)) program or approved apprenticeship
15 program;

16 (2) Successful completion of an examination administered or
17 approved by the board; and

18 (3) Be eighteen years of age or older.

19 In addition, applicants shall be subject to the grounds for denial
20 or issuance of a conditional license under chapter 18.130 RCW.

21 The secretary may require any information and documentation that
22 reasonably relates to the need to determine whether the applicant meets
23 the criteria for licensure provided for in this chapter and chapter
24 18.130 RCW. The secretary shall establish by rule what constitutes
25 adequate proof of meeting the criteria. The board shall give an
26 appropriate alternate form of examination for persons who cannot read
27 or speak English to determine equivalent competency.

28 **Sec. 5.** RCW 18.108.073 and 1995 c 198 s 17 are each amended to
29 read as follows:

30 (1) The date and location of the examination shall be established
31 by the secretary. Applicants who demonstrate to the secretary's
32 satisfaction that the following requirements have been met shall be
33 scheduled for the next examination following the filing of the
34 application:

35 (a) ((Effective June 1, 1988,)) Successful completion of a course
36 of study in an approved ((massage)) program; or

1 (b) (~~Effective June 1, 1988,~~) Successful completion of an
2 apprenticeship program established by the board; and

3 (c) Be eighteen years of age or older.

4 In addition, the secretary shall establish a deadline for receipt
5 of completed and approved applications.

6 (2)(a) The board or its designee shall examine each massage
7 practitioner applicant in a written examination determined most
8 effective on subjects appropriate to the massage scope of practice.
9 The subjects may include anatomy, kinesiology, physiology, pathology,
10 principles of human behavior, massage theory and practice,
11 hydrotherapy, hygiene, first aid, Washington law pertaining to the
12 practice of massage, and such other subjects as the board may deem
13 useful to test applicant's fitness to practice massage therapy. Such
14 examinations shall be limited in purpose to determining whether the
15 applicant possesses the minimum skill and knowledge necessary to
16 practice competently.

17 (b) The board or its designee shall examine each animal massage
18 therapist applicant in a written examination determined most effective
19 on subjects appropriate to the animal massage scope of practice. The
20 subjects may include equine massage, small animal massage, anatomy,
21 physiology, exercise physiology, pathology, kinesiology, injury
22 management, nutrition, business practices and ethics, and those other
23 subjects necessary for the board to test the applicant's fitness to
24 practice animal massage therapy. This examination shall be limited in
25 purpose to determining whether the applicant possesses the minimum
26 skill and knowledge necessary to practice competently.

27 (3) All records of a candidate's performance shall be preserved for
28 a period of not less than one year after the board has made and
29 published decisions thereupon. All examinations shall be conducted by
30 the board under fair and impartial methods as determined by the
31 secretary.

32 (4) An applicant who fails to make the required grade in the first
33 examination is entitled to take up to two additional examinations upon
34 the payment of a fee for each subsequent examination determined by the
35 secretary as provided in RCW 43.70.250. Upon failure of three
36 examinations, the secretary may invalidate the original application and
37 require such remedial education as is required by the board before
38 admission to future examinations.

1 (5) The board may approve an examination prepared or administered,
2 or both, by a private testing agency or association of licensing boards
3 for use by an applicant in meeting the licensing requirement.

4 **Sec. 6.** RCW 18.108.095 and 1987 c 443 s 12 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 An applicant holding a license in another state or foreign
7 jurisdiction may be granted a Washington license without examination,
8 if, in the opinion of the board, the other state's or foreign
9 jurisdiction's examination and educational requirements are
10 substantially equivalent to Washington's: PROVIDED, That the applicant
11 demonstrates to the satisfaction of the board a working knowledge of
12 Washington law pertaining to the practice of massage or animal massage
13 therapy. The applicant shall provide proof in a manner approved by the
14 department that the examination and requirements are equivalent to
15 Washington's.

16 **Sec. 7.** RCW 18.108.100 and 1975 1st ex.s. c 280 s 11 are each
17 amended to read as follows:

18 The provisions of this chapter relating to the licensing of any
19 person (~~(shall not be)~~) are not exclusive, and any political
20 subdivision of the state of Washington within whose jurisdiction the
21 practice of massage or animal massage therapy is performed may require
22 additional registrations or licenses, regulating the practice of
23 massage (~~(or)~~), massage operators, or animal massage therapists, and
24 charge any fee for the same or similar purpose.

25 **Sec. 8.** RCW 18.108.210 and 1975 1st ex.s. c 280 s 22 are each
26 amended to read as follows:

27 The provisions of this chapter relating to the registration and
28 licensing of any massage or animal massage therapy business (~~(shall not~~
29 ~~be)~~) are not exclusive and any political subdivision of the state of
30 Washington within whose jurisdiction the massage or animal massage
31 therapy business is located may require any registrations or licenses,
32 or charge any fee for the same or similar purpose(~~(/ and nothing herein~~
33 ~~shall)~~). This section does not limit or abridge the authority of any
34 political subdivision to levy and collect a general and
35 nondiscriminatory license fee levied upon all businesses, or to levy a

1 tax based upon gross business conducted by any firm within (~~said~~) the
2 political subdivision.

3 **Sec. 9.** RCW 18.108.220 and 1994 c 228 s 1 are each amended to read
4 as follows:

5 For the purposes of this chapter, licensed massage practitioners
6 and animal massage therapists shall be classified as "offices and
7 clinics of health practitioners, not elsewhere classified" under
8 section 8049 of the standard industrial classification manual published
9 by the executive office of the president, office of management and
10 budget.

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