
Local Government Committee

HB 1341

Brief Description: Limiting the regulation of the practice of massage by political subdivisions.

Sponsors: Representatives Simpson, Curtis, Ericks and Alexander.

Brief Summary of Bill
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Repeals the statute authorizing local governments to license and regulate massage practitioners.

Hearing Date: 1/25/07

Staff: Thamas Osborn (786-7129).

Background:

The practice of massage and massage therapy is regulated under state law. The regulation of massage practitioners includes the following:

- State licensing and examination requirements;
- Restrictions on certain advertising practices; and
- Disciplinary standards and procedures.

The regulation of massage practitioners is overseen by the Washington State Board of Massage (Board). The Board is authorized to adopt administrative rules pertaining to the regulation of the massage profession and is granted specified powers with respect to the:

- Evaluation and approval of massage schools and training programs;
- Administration of licensing examinations; and
- Establishment of the rules, standards, and procedures regarding the training of practitioners.

The regulation of the massage profession is not exclusive to the state. Statute explicitly allows local governments to impose regulations, require local licenses, charge fees, and levy taxes.

Summary of Bill:

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Statutory provisions authorizing local governments to license and regulate massage practitioners are repealed.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.