
Health Care & Wellness Committee

HB 2425

Brief Description: Concerning massage therapists.

Sponsors: Representatives Kuderer, Schmick, S. Hunt, Chandler, Goodman, Rodne, Kilduff, Manweller and Jinkins.

<p style="text-align: center;">Brief Summary of Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Changes the terms "massage practitioner" and "animal massage practitioner" to "massage therapist" and "animal massage therapist," respectively.

Hearing Date: 1/22/16

Staff: Ariele Landstrom (786-7190).

Background:

Massage therapy is a health care service involving the external manipulation or pressure of soft tissue for therapeutic purposes. Massage practitioners are individuals licensed to practice massage therapy. Animal massage practitioners are individuals licensed to practice massage therapy with additional training in animal therapy.

The Department of Health (DOH) issues licenses to practice massage therapy and endorsements for animal massage therapy. Licenses must be renewed annually.

Summary of Bill:

The terms "massage practitioner" and "animal massage practitioner" are changed to "massage therapist" and "animal massage therapist," respectively.

Beginning July 1, 2017, the DOH must issue new licenses and renewals as they become due using the terms "massage therapist" or "animal massage therapist" as appropriate. Any licenses

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becoming due after July 1, 2017, remain valid with the terms "massage practitioner" or "animal massage practitioner" until the licenses become due.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect July 1, 2017.