

# FINAL BILL REPORT

## SHB 2425

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Synopsis as Enacted

**Brief Description:** Concerning massage therapists.

**Sponsors:** House Committee on Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by Representatives Kuderer, Schmick, S. Hunt, Chandler, Goodman, Rodne, Kilduff, Manweller and Jinkins).

**House Committee on Health Care & Wellness**  
**Senate Committee on Health Care**

**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.

**Summary:**

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 term "massage therapist." Any licenses becoming due after July 1, 2017, remain valid with the term "massage practitioner" until the licenses become due.

**Votes on Final Passage:**

House	95	3
Senate	46	0

**Effective:** July 1, 2017

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*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.*