

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

HOUSE BILL 2781

64th Legislature
2016 Regular Session

Passed by the House February 17, 2016
Yeas 98 Nays 0

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed by the Senate March 1, 2016
Yeas 47 Nays 0

President of the Senate

Approved

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Barbara Baker, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **HOUSE BILL 2781** as passed by House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

Chief Clerk

FILED

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

HOUSE BILL 2781

Passed Legislature - 2016 Regular Session

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2016 Regular Session

By Representatives Harris, Cody, Senn, and Moeller

Read first time 01/20/16. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to the board of massage; amending RCW 18.108.025,
2 18.108.070, and 18.108.073; and adding a new section to chapter
3 18.108 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 18.108
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 In order to recognize prior education that is applicable to
8 licensure as a massage therapist or massage practitioner while
9 protecting the public, the board shall adopt rules to allow massage
10 programs that are approved by the board to establish transfer
11 programs that accept an individual's credits or clock hours from
12 schools that have not been approved by the board. "Prior education"
13 must be defined to include but not be limited to, credits or clock
14 hours from schools, colleges, and universities that are:

15 (1) Accredited by a national or regional accreditation
16 organization;

17 (2) Approved by a state authority with responsibility for
18 oversight of vocational programs; or

19 (3) Approved by a state agency that regulates massage programs
20 and is a member of the federation of state massage therapy boards.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.108.025 and 2012 c 137 s 4 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (1) In addition to any other authority provided by law, the board
4 of massage may:

5 (a) Adopt rules in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW necessary to
6 implement massage practitioner licensure under this chapter, subject
7 to the approval of the secretary;

8 (b) Define, evaluate, approve, and designate those massage
9 schools, massage programs, transfer programs, and massage
10 apprenticeship programs including all current and proposed
11 curriculum, faculty, and health, sanitation, and facility standards
12 from which graduation will be accepted as proof of an applicant's
13 eligibility to take the massage licensing examination;

14 (c) Review approved massage schools and programs periodically;

15 (d) Prepare, grade, administer, and supervise the grading and
16 administration of, examinations for applicants for massage licensure;

17 (e) Establish and administer requirements for continuing
18 education, which shall be a prerequisite to renewing a massage
19 practitioner license under this chapter; and

20 (f) Determine which states have educational and licensing
21 requirements for massage practitioners equivalent to those of this
22 state.

23 (2) The board shall establish by rule the standards and
24 procedures for approving courses of study in massage therapy and may
25 contract with individuals or organizations having expertise in the
26 profession or in education to assist in evaluating courses of study.
27 The standards and procedures set shall apply equally to schools and
28 training within the United States of America and those in foreign
29 jurisdictions.

30 **Sec. 3.** RCW 18.108.070 and 2012 c 137 s 10 are each amended to
31 read as follows:

32 (1) The secretary shall issue a massage practitioner's license to
33 an applicant who demonstrates to the secretary's satisfaction that
34 the following requirements have been met:

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

38 (b) Successful completion of an examination administered or
39 approved by the board; and

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

2 (2) Beginning July 1, 2013, the secretary shall issue a
3 reflexologist certification to an applicant who completes an
4 application form that identifies the name and address of the
5 applicant and the certification request, and demonstrates to the
6 secretary's satisfaction that the following requirements have been
7 met:

8 (a) Successful completion of a course of study in reflexologist
9 program approved by the secretary;

10 (b) Successful completion of an examination administered or
11 approved by the secretary; and

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

13 (3) Applicants for a massage practitioner's license or for
14 certification as a reflexologist shall be subject to the grounds for
15 denial or issuance of a conditional credential under chapter 18.130
16 RCW.

17 (4) The secretary may require any information and documentation
18 that reasonably relates to the need to determine whether the massage
19 practitioner or reflexologist applicant meets the criteria for
20 licensure provided for in this chapter and chapter 18.130 RCW. The
21 secretary shall establish by rule what constitutes adequate proof of
22 meeting the criteria.

23 **Sec. 4.** RCW 18.108.073 and 2012 c 137 s 11 are each amended to
24 read as follows:

25 (1) Applicants for the massage practitioner license examination
26 must demonstrate to the secretary's satisfaction that the following
27 requirements have been met:

28 (a)(i) Effective June 1, 1988, successful completion of a course
29 of study in an approved massage program or transfer program; or

30 (ii) Effective June 1, 1988, successful completion of an
31 apprenticeship program established by the board; and

32 (b) Be eighteen years of age or older.

33 (2) The board or its designee shall examine each massage
34 practitioner applicant in a written examination determined most
35 effective on subjects appropriate to the massage scope of practice.
36 The subjects may include anatomy, kinesiology, physiology, pathology,
37 principles of human behavior, massage theory and practice,
38 hydrotherapy, hygiene, first aid, Washington law pertaining to the
39 practice of massage, and such other subjects as the board may deem

1 useful to test applicant's fitness to practice massage therapy. Such
2 examinations shall be limited in purpose to determining whether the
3 applicant possesses the minimum skill and knowledge necessary to
4 practice competently.

5 (3) All records of a massage practitioner candidate's performance
6 shall be preserved for a period of not less than one year after the
7 board has made and published decisions thereupon. All examinations
8 shall be conducted by the board under fair and impartial methods as
9 determined by the secretary.

10 (4) A massage practitioner applicant who fails to make the
11 required grade in the first examination is entitled to take up to two
12 additional examinations upon the payment of a fee for each subsequent
13 examination determined by the secretary as provided in RCW 43.70.250.
14 Upon failure of three examinations, the secretary may invalidate the
15 original application and require such remedial education as is
16 required by the board before admission to future examinations.

17 (5) The board may approve an examination prepared or
18 administered, or both, by a private testing agency or association of
19 licensing boards for use by a massage practitioner applicant in
20 meeting the licensing requirement.

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