
HOUSE BILL 1848

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Representative Jenkin

Read first time 02/01/19. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to exempting foot zone therapy from reflexology
2 certification; and amending RCW 18.108.010 and 18.108.030.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.108.010 and 2016 c 41 s 1 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

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

8 (1) "Animal massage therapist" means an individual with a license
9 to practice massage therapy in this state with additional training in
10 animal therapy.

11 (2) "Board" means the Washington state board of massage.

12 (3) "Certified reflexologist" means an individual who is
13 certified under this chapter.

14 (4) "Foot zone therapy" means a service that is limited to
15 applying pressure with hands and zoning tools from the ankle down to
16 the bottom of the feet based on zoning maps. Foot zone therapy does
17 not include the diagnosis of or treatment for specific diseases or
18 joint manipulations.

19 (5) "Health carrier" means the same as the definition in RCW
20 48.43.005.

1 ~~((5))~~ (6) "Intraoral massage" means the manipulation or
2 pressure of soft tissue inside the mouth or oral cavity for
3 therapeutic purposes.

4 ~~((6))~~ (7) "Massage" and "massage therapy" mean a health care
5 service involving the external manipulation or pressure of soft
6 tissue for therapeutic purposes. Massage therapy includes techniques
7 such as tapping, compressions, friction, reflexology, Swedish
8 gymnastics or movements, gliding, kneading, shaking, and fascial or
9 connective tissue stretching, with or without the aids of superficial
10 heat, cold, water, lubricants, or salts. Massage therapy does not
11 include diagnosis or attempts to adjust or manipulate any
12 articulations of the body or spine or mobilization of these
13 articulations by the use of a thrusting force, nor does it include
14 genital manipulation.

15 ~~((7))~~ (8) "Massage business" means the operation of a business
16 where massages are given.

17 ~~((8))~~ (9) "Massage therapist" means an individual licensed
18 under this chapter.

19 ~~((9))~~ (10) "Reflexology" means a health care service that is
20 limited to applying alternating pressure with thumb and finger
21 techniques to reflexive areas of the lower one-third of the
22 extremities, feet, hands, and outer ears based on reflex maps.
23 Reflexology does not include the diagnosis of or treatment for
24 specific diseases, or joint manipulations. Reflexology does not
25 include foot zone therapy.

26 ~~((10))~~ (11) "Reflexology business" means the operation of a
27 business where reflexology services are provided.

28 ~~((11))~~ (12) "Secretary" means the secretary of health or the
29 secretary's designee.

30 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.108.030 and 2016 c 41 s 3 are each amended to
31 read as follows:

32 (1) (a) No person may practice or represent himself or herself as
33 a massage therapist without first applying for and receiving from the
34 department a license to practice. However, this subsection does not
35 prohibit a certified reflexologist from practicing reflexology.

36 (b) A person represents himself or herself as a massage therapist
37 when the person adopts or uses any title or any description of
38 services that incorporates one or more of the following terms or
39 designations: Massage, massage practitioner, massage therapist,

1 massage therapy, therapeutic massage, massage technician, massage
2 technology, massagist, masseur, masseuse, myotherapist or myotherapy,
3 touch therapist, reflexologist except when used by a certified
4 reflexologist, acupressurist, body therapy or body therapist, or any
5 derivation of those terms that implies a massage technique or method.

6 (2) (a) No person may practice reflexology or represent himself or
7 herself as a reflexologist by use of any title without first being
8 certified as a reflexologist or licensed as a massage therapist by
9 the department.

10 (b) A person represents himself or herself as a reflexologist
11 when the person adopts or uses any title in any description of
12 services that incorporates one or more of the following terms or
13 designations: Reflexologist, reflexology, (~~foot pressure therapy,~~
14 ~~foot reflex therapy,~~) or any derivation of those terms that implies
15 a reflexology technique or method. However, this subsection does not
16 prohibit a licensed massage therapist from using any of these terms
17 as a description of services.

18 (c) A person may not use the term "certified reflexologist"
19 without first being certified by the department.

20 (d) A person who practices only foot zone therapy within
21 established professional standards and ethics is not required to
22 become licensed and certified pursuant to this chapter.

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