

1 HB167  
2 173289-1  
3 By Representative Hill (M)  
4 RFD: Boards, Agencies and Commissions  
5 First Read: 09-FEB-16

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7  
8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, the Alabama Massage  
9 Therapy Licensure Act governs the practice of  
10 massage therapy in this state.

11 This bill would expand the persons exempt  
12 from the chapter and would delete any reference to  
13 a temporary permit to practice massage therapy.

14 This bill would delete antiquated language.

15 This bill would provide compensation to  
16 board members and would change the makeup of the  
17 board.

18 This bill would change the name of the  
19 executive secretary to executive director.

20 This bill would list reasons for excused  
21 absences from board meetings.

22 This bill would remove the requirements that  
23 the oath of office of board members be filed with  
24 the Governor and that the Governor issue  
25 certificates of appointment to board members.

26 This bill would increase the minimum hours  
27 of supervised course instruction for licensure.

1                   This bill would require that an applicant  
2 for licensure be 18 years of age with a high school  
3 diploma, or the equivalent, and be subject to a  
4 criminal history background information check and  
5 would remove the requirement that an applicant be a  
6 United States citizen.

7                   This bill would delete a limit on the number  
8 of times a retest may be given for an applicant who  
9 fails to pass the board examination. This bill  
10 would delete the requirement that a record of each  
11 board exam be filed with the board office and  
12 available for inspection for two years.

13                   This bill would authorize the board to  
14 assess and collect certain fees.

15                   This bill would increase the discretion of  
16 the board to license establishments.

17                   This bill would expand the authority of the  
18 board to revoke or suspend licenses.

19                   This bill would expand the authority of the  
20 board to revoke or suspend licenses.

21                   Under existing law, a violation of the  
22 Alabama Massage Therapy Licensure Act is a Class C  
23 misdemeanor.

24                   This bill would increase the penalty for a  
25 violation to a Class A misdemeanor.

1                   This bill would also repeal Section  
2                   34-43-10, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the  
3                   examination of massage therapists.

4                   Amendment 621 of the Constitution of Alabama  
5                   of 1901, now appearing as Section 111.05 of the  
6                   Official Recompilation of the Constitution of  
7                   Alabama of 1901, as amended, prohibits a general  
8                   law whose purpose or effect would be to require a  
9                   new or increased expenditure of local funds from  
10                  becoming effective with regard to a local  
11                  governmental entity without enactment by a 2/3 vote  
12                  unless: it comes within one of a number of  
13                  specified exceptions; it is approved by the  
14                  affected entity; or the Legislature appropriates  
15                  funds, or provides a local source of revenue, to  
16                  the entity for the purpose.

17                  The purpose or effect of this bill would be  
18                  to require a new or increased expenditure of local  
19                  funds within the meaning of the amendment. However,  
20                  the bill does not require approval of a local  
21                  governmental entity or enactment by a 2/3 vote to  
22                  become effective because it comes within one of the  
23                  specified exceptions contained in the amendment.

24  
25                                   A BILL  
26                                   TO BE ENTITLED  
27                                   AN ACT

1  
2           Relating to the Alabama Massage Therapy Licensure  
3 Act; to amend Sections 34-43-3, 34-43-5, 34-43-6, 34-43-7,  
4 34-43-9, 34-43-11, 34-43-12, 34-43-14, 34-43-15, 34-43-17,  
5 34-43-20, and 34-43-21, Code of Alabama 1975, and to repeal  
6 Section 34-43-10, Code of Alabama 1975; to delete any  
7 reference to a temporary permit to practice massage therapy;  
8 to expand the definition of therapeutic massage and extend  
9 exemptions to the act; to delete antiquated language; to  
10 provide compensation for board members; to change the name of  
11 the executive secretary to executive director; to provide an  
12 excuse for absences from board meetings; to delete  
13 requirements that the oath of office of board members be filed  
14 with the Governor and that certificates of appointments be  
15 issued; to remove a retesting limit; to increase the minimum  
16 hours of supervised course instruction for licensure; to  
17 require that applicants for licensure be 18 years old with a  
18 high school diploma, or the equivalent, and be subject to  
19 criminal history information background checks; to authorize  
20 the board to assess and collect certain fees; to increase the  
21 discretion of the board to license establishments; to expand  
22 the authority of the board to revoke or suspend licenses; to  
23 increase the penalty violating the act from a Class C  
24 misdemeanor to a Class A misdemeanor; and in connection  
25 therewith would have as its purpose or effect the requirement  
26 of a new or increased expenditure of local funds within the  
27 meaning of Amendment 621 of the Constitution of Alabama of

1 1901, now appearing as Section 111.05 of the Official  
2 Recompilation of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as  
3 amended.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

5 Section 1. Sections 34-43-3, 34-43-5, 34-43-6,  
6 34-43-7, 34-43-9, 34-43-11, 34-43-12, 34-43-14, 34-43-15,  
7 34-43-17, 34-43-20, and 34-43-21 of the Code of Alabama 1975,  
8 are amended to read as follows:

9 "§34-43-3.

10 "For purposes of this chapter, the following terms  
11 shall have the following meanings:

12 "(1) ADVERTISE. Distributing a card, flier, sign, or  
13 device to any person or organization, or allowing any sign or  
14 marking on any building, radio, television, or by advertising  
15 by any other means designed to attract public attention.

16 "(2) BOARD. The Alabama Board of Massage Therapy  
17 ~~created pursuant to this chapter.~~

18 "(3) BOARD-APPROVED MASSAGE THERAPY SCHOOL. A school  
19 where massage therapy is taught which is one of the following:

20 "a. If located in Alabama is approved by the board  
21 as meeting the minimum established standards of training and  
22 curriculum as determined by the board.

23 "b. If located outside of Alabama is recognized by  
24 the board ~~and~~ or by a regionally recognized professional  
25 accrediting body, or both.

26 "~~c. Is a postgraduate training institute accredited~~  
27 ~~by the Commission on Accreditation for Massage Therapy.~~

1           "(4) ESTABLISHMENT. A site, premises, or business  
2 where massage therapy is practiced by a licensed massage  
3 therapist.

4           "~~(5) EXAMINATION. A National Certification For~~  
5 ~~Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork Examination administered by~~  
6 ~~an independent agency or another nationally or internationally~~  
7 ~~accredited exam administered by an independent agency per~~  
8 ~~approval of the board. The examination will be accredited by~~  
9 ~~the National Committee for Certifying Agencies~~ nationally  
10 recognized competency examination in massage and bodywork that  
11 meets acceptable psychometric principles, is statistically  
12 validated through a job-task analysis under current standards  
13 for educational and professional testing, and has been  
14 approved by the board. The board retains the right to  
15 administer a written, oral, or practical examination.

16           "(6) LICENSE. The credential issued by the board  
17 which allows the licensee to engage in the safe and ethical  
18 practice of massage therapy.

19           "(7) LICENSEE. Any person, business, establishment,  
20 or school holding a license issued by the board.

21           "(8) LICENSURE. The procedure by which an applicant  
22 applies to the board for approval to practice massage therapy  
23 or to operate an establishment.

24           "~~(7)~~ (9) MASSAGE THERAPIST. A person licensed  
25 pursuant to this chapter who practices or administers massage  
26 therapy or touch therapy modalities to a patron for  
27 compensation.

1           "~~(8)~~(10) MASSAGE THERAPY INSTRUCTOR. A licensed  
2 massage therapist approved by the board to teach the practice  
3 of massage therapy.

4           "~~(9)~~(11) PERSON. Any individual, firm, corporation,  
5 partnership, organization, association, trustee, lessee,  
6 agent, assignee, or other legal entity.

7           "~~(10)~~(12) SEXUALLY ORIENTED BUSINESS. A sex parlor,  
8 massage parlor, nude studio, modeling studio, love parlor,  
9 adult bookstore, adult movie theater, adult video arcade,  
10 adult motel, or other commercial enterprise which has ~~as its~~  
11 ~~primary~~ any business ~~the~~ offering for sale, rent, or exhibit,  
12 or the exhibit of, items or services intended to provide  
13 sexual stimulation or sexual gratification to the customer.

14           "~~(11)~~(13) STUDENT OF MASSAGE THERAPY. Any person  
15 currently enrolled in an Alabama massage therapy school  
16 program approved by the board.

17           "~~(12)~~ TEMPORARY PERMIT. ~~A temporary permit issued at~~  
18 ~~the request of a massage therapist who is qualified according~~  
19 ~~to the Alabama massage therapy law prior to approval by the~~  
20 ~~board and not to exceed six months.~~

21           "~~(13)~~(14) THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE AND RELATED TOUCH  
22 THERAPY MODALITIES. The mobilization of the soft tissue which  
23 may include skin, fascia, tendons, ligaments, and muscles, for  
24 the purpose of establishing and maintaining good physical  
25 condition. The term shall include effleurage, petrissage,  
26 tapotement, compression, vibration, stretching, heliotherapy,  
27 superficial hot and cold applications, topical applications,



1 or other therapy which involves movement either by hand,  
2 forearm, elbow, or foot, for the purpose of therapeutic  
3 massage. Massage therapy may include the external application  
4 and use of herbal or chemical preparations and lubricants such  
5 as salts, powders, liquids, nonprescription creams, mechanical  
6 ~~devises~~ devices such as T-bars, thumpers, body support  
7 systems, heat lamps, hot and cold packs, salt glow, steam  
8 cabinet baths or hydrotherapy. The term includes any massage,  
9 movement therapy, massage technology, myotherapy, acupressure  
10 massage, deep tissue massage, reflexology massage, or  
11 massotherapy, oriental massage techniques, structural  
12 integration, or polarity therapy. The term does not include  
13 directed movement therapy including, but not limited to, the  
14 Feldenkrais method of somatic education, the Trager approach  
15 to movement education, the Rosen method, and body-mind  
16 centering and energy field work including, but not limited to,  
17 Polarity Therapy, Reiki, Reflexology, Touch for Health, or Jin  
18 Shin Do, provided these services are not designated or implied  
19 to be massage or massage therapy. The term shall also does not  
20 include laser therapy, microwave, injection therapy,  
21 manipulation of the joints, or any diagnosis or treatment of  
22 an illness that normally involves the practice of medicine,  
23 chiropractic, physical therapy, podiatry, nursing,  
24 occupational therapy, veterinary, acupuncture, osteopathy,  
25 orthopedics, hypnosis, ~~or~~ naturopathics, or any other modality  
26 designated by the board.

27 "§34-43-5.

1           "(a) The following persons, offices, or  
2 establishments shall be exempt from this chapter:

3           "(1) A student of massage therapy who is rendering  
4 massage therapy services under the supervision of a licensed  
5 massage therapy instructor, or any other supervisory  
6 arrangement recognized and approved by the board, ~~including,~~  
7 ~~but not limited to, a temporary permit.~~ The student shall be  
8 designated by title clearly indicating the training status of  
9 the student.

10           "(2) Qualified members of other professions who are  
11 licensed and regulated under Alabama law while they are in the  
12 course of rendering services within the scope of their license  
13 or regulation, provided that they do not represent themselves  
14 as massage therapists.

15           "(3) A person giving massages to his or her  
16 immediate family.

17           "(4) Visiting massage therapy instructors from  
18 another state, territory, or country teaching massage therapy,  
19 provided that the massage therapy instructor is licensed or  
20 registered as required in his or her place of residence.  
21 Visiting massage instructors teaching continuing education  
22 courses may teach in the state for up to 100 hours per year  
23 without an Alabama license. One hundred hours of continuing  
24 education instruction or more shall require licensure.

25           "(5) Members of the Massage Emergency Rescue Team  
26 (MERT) or any other nationally or internationally recognized  
27 disaster relief association who practice massage therapy in

1 the state only during a time declared by the Governor to be a  
2 city, county, or state emergency. These therapists may work in  
3 the state for a period of time approved by the board.

4 "(6) Native American healers using traditional  
5 healing practices, ~~provided, however,~~ Native American healers  
6 who use these practices but apply for a license pursuant to  
7 this chapter shall comply with all licensure requirements.

8 "(7) A person acting under the supervision of a  
9 physician, a physical therapist, or a chiropractor within the  
10 scope of their license or regulation, provided that they do  
11 not represent themselves as massage therapists.

12 "(8) The office of a chiropractor, physician, or  
13 physical therapist who employs or contracts with a massage  
14 therapist. It is the specific intent of this subdivision that  
15 a chiropractor, physician, or physical therapist and his or  
16 her office not be required to be licensed as an establishment  
17 under this chapter or be required to obtain any exemption  
18 under this chapter from the board.

19 "(9) Persons using methods which involve only  
20 techniques which are specifically intended to affect the human  
21 energy fields or systems, without intentional soft tissue  
22 manipulation including, but not limited to, Polarity Therapy,  
23 Reiki, Touch for Health, or Jin Shin Do, in which their  
24 services are not designated or implied to be massage or  
25 massage therapy.

26 "(10) Persons who use touch, words, and directed  
27 movement to deepen awareness of existing patterns of movement

1 in the body as well as to suggest new possibilities of  
2 movement while engaged in the scope of practice of a  
3 profession with established standards and ethics, provided  
4 that their services are not designated or implied to be  
5 massage or massage therapy and involve only incidental contact  
6 or manipulation of soft tissue. These practices include, but  
7 are not limited to, the Feldenkrais method of somatic  
8 education, the Trager approach to movement education, the  
9 Rosen method, and body-mind centering.

10 "(11) A hospital licensed by the Department of  
11 Public Health, including any wellness center and any  
12 outpatient facility or clinic that is located at the main  
13 campus of the hospital or separated from the hospital and  
14 owned, operated, or controlled by the licensed hospital.

15 "(b) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to  
16 permit massage therapists licensed under this chapter to  
17 administer, dispense, or prescribe drugs, or engage in the  
18 practice of medicine in any manner, including, but not limited  
19 to, diagnosing or prescribing drugs for mental, emotional, or  
20 physical diseases, illnesses, or injuries.

21 "§34-43-6.

22 "(a) There is created the Alabama Board of Massage  
23 Therapy. The purpose of the board is to protect the health,  
24 safety, and welfare of the public by ensuring that licensed  
25 massage therapists, massage therapy schools, and massage  
26 therapy instructors meet prescribed standards of education,  
27 competency, and practice. To accomplish this mission, the

1 board shall establish standards pursuant to this chapter to  
2 complete all board functions in a timely and effective manner  
3 and to provide open and immediate access to all relevant  
4 public information. The board shall communicate its  
5 responsibilities and services to the public as part of its  
6 consumer protection duties. The board shall develop and  
7 implement a long range plan to ensure effective regulation and  
8 consumer protection.

9 " (b) The board shall consist of seven members  
10 appointed by the Governor, ~~subject to confirmation by the~~  
11 ~~Senate~~. No member of the board shall serve more than two full  
12 consecutive terms. The members initially appointed to the  
13 board shall be appointed not later than July 16, 1996. ~~Five~~  
14 Six of the members initially appointed to the board shall have  
15 been actively engaged in the practice of massage therapy for  
16 not less than three consecutive years prior to the date of  
17 their appointment to the board. Successor members to these  
18 initial ~~five~~ six appointees shall be licensees of the board.  
19 ~~Two members~~ One member shall be a public members member who  
20 shall not be licensed, nor have been licensed in the past, and  
21 shall not have any direct financial interest in the massage  
22 therapy profession. Each board member shall be a high school  
23 graduate or shall have received a graduate equivalency  
24 diploma. Each board member shall be selected upon personal  
25 merit and qualifications, not per membership or affiliation  
26 with an association. Each board member shall be a citizen of  
27 the United States ~~and this state~~ and a resident of this state

1 for two years immediately preceding the appointment. The  
2 membership of the board shall be inclusive and reflect the  
3 racial, gender, geographic, urban/rural, and economic  
4 diversity of the state. ~~As the terms of members serving on~~  
5 ~~April 28, 2011, expire, or as vacancies occur, new members~~  
6 ~~shall be appointed so that not more than one member from each~~  
7 ~~United States Congressional District is appointed to serve at~~  
8 ~~the same time.~~

9 ~~"(c) Of the initial seven appointees to the board,~~  
10 ~~three members shall be appointed for terms ending September~~  
11 ~~30, 1997, and four members shall be appointed for terms ending~~  
12 ~~September 30, 1999. Thereafter, successors shall be appointed~~  
13 ~~for terms of four years, each term expiring on September 30.~~

14 ~~"(d) (c)~~ Vacancies on the board occurring prior to  
15 the expiration of a term shall be filled by the Governor  
16 within 30 days of the vacancy to serve for the remainder of  
17 the unexpired term. Each member of the board shall serve until  
18 his or her successor has been duly appointed and qualified.

19 ~~"(e) At the first meeting, and annually thereafter~~  
20 ~~in the month of October, the~~ (d) The board shall annually  
21 elect a chair and vice chair from its membership.

22 ~~"(f) The board shall hold its first meeting within~~  
23 ~~30 days after the initial members are appointed.~~ (e) The board  
24 shall hold meetings during the year as it determines  
25 necessary, ~~two of which shall be the biannual meetings for the~~  
26 ~~purpose of reviewing license applications.~~ Additional meetings  
27 may be held at the discretion of the chair or upon written

1 request of any three members of the board. A quorum of the  
2 board shall be a majority of the current appointed board  
3 members.

4 "~~(g)~~ (f) Board members shall ~~not receive compensation~~  
5 ~~for their services, but shall receive the same per diem and~~  
6 ~~allowance as provided to state employees for each day the~~  
7 ~~board meets and conducts business~~ receive one hundred dollars  
8 (\$100) per day for attending sessions of the board or board  
9 committees and, in addition, shall be reimbursed for such  
10 necessary travel expenses as are paid to state employees, to  
11 be paid from fees collected.

12 "~~(h)~~ (g) The board shall promulgate the rules  
13 necessary to implement this chapter pursuant to the  
14 Administrative Procedure Act.

15 "~~(i)~~ (h) The board may employ, and at its pleasure  
16 discharge, an executive ~~secretary~~ director and other officers  
17 and employees which may be necessary, including an attorney,  
18 to implement this chapter. The board shall also outline the  
19 duties and fix the compensation and expense allowances of the  
20 employees.

21 "~~(j)~~ (i) An affirmative vote of a majority of the  
22 members of the board shall be required to grant, suspend, or  
23 revoke a license to practice massage therapy or a license to  
24 operate a massage therapy establishment.

25 "~~(k)~~ (j) The board shall be financed only from income  
26 accruing to ~~it~~ the board from fees, licenses, other charges,

1 and funds collected by ~~it~~ the board, and any monies that are  
2 appropriated to ~~it~~ the board by the Legislature.

3 "~~(i)~~ (k) Each board member shall be accountable to  
4 the Governor for the proper performance of his or her duties  
5 as a member of the board. The board shall report to the  
6 Governor annually and at other times as requested by the  
7 Governor. The Governor shall investigate any complaints or  
8 unfavorable reports concerning the actions of the board and  
9 take appropriate action thereon, including removal of any  
10 board member for misfeasance, malfeasance, neglect of duty,  
11 commission of a felony, incompetence, or permanent inability  
12 to perform official duties. A board member may be removed at  
13 the request of the board after failing to attend two  
14 consecutive properly noticed meetings. Excused absences of a  
15 board member are absences due to any of the following:

16 "(1) Medical problems of a board member or a family  
17 member of the board member including, but not limited to,  
18 illness, surgery, care, and hospitalization.

19 "(2) Death of a family member and attendance of his  
20 or her funeral.

21 "(3) Any conflict, extraordinary circumstance, or  
22 event as approved by the chair.

23 "~~(m)~~ (l) Members of the board are immune from  
24 liability for all good faith acts performed in the execution  
25 of their duties as members of the board, unless they fail to  
26 act in a reasonably prudent manner.



1           "~~(n)~~ (m) Appointees to the board shall take the  
2 constitutional oath of office and file it in the board office  
3 ~~of the Governor before undertaking any duties as a board~~  
4 ~~member. Upon receiving the oath, the Governor shall issue a~~  
5 ~~certificate of appointment to each appointee.~~

6           "§34-43-7.

7           "(a) By rule, the board shall make provisions to do  
8 all of the following:

9           "(1) Examine and qualify for examination applicants  
10 for licensure and issue a license to each successful  
11 applicant.

12           "(2) Adopt a seal, which shall be affixed to all  
13 licenses issued by the board.

14           "(3) Prescribe application forms for examination and  
15 licensure and assess and collect fees pursuant to this  
16 chapter.

17           "(4) Maintain a complete record of all licensed  
18 massage therapists and annually prepare a roster of the names  
19 and addresses of the licensees. A copy of this roster shall  
20 be made available to any person requesting it, upon payment of  
21 a fee set by the board in an amount sufficient to cover the  
22 costs of its publication and distribution.

23           "(5) Provide for the investigation of persons who  
24 may be violating this chapter.

25           "(6) Adopt and revise rules and regulations pursuant  
26 to the Administrative Procedure Act, including the adoption of  
27 rules concerning unprofessional conduct.

1           "(7) Provide a copy of this chapter to all persons  
2 licensed under this chapter and to all applicants for  
3 licensure.

4           "(8) Adopt rules that require massage therapists to  
5 carry professional and general liability insurance with an "A"  
6 rated or better insurance carrier in the amount of at least  
7 one million dollars (\$1,000,000). The massage therapist shall  
8 produce evidence of coverage upon request of the board.

9           "(9) Have other powers necessary and proper for the  
10 performance of official duties.

11           "(b) By rule, the board may do any of the following:

12           "(1) Accept or deny the application of any person  
13 applying for licensure as a massage therapist upon an  
14 affirmative vote of a majority of the board or the decision of  
15 a designee of the board.

16           "(2) Establish criteria for certifying massage  
17 therapy instructors.

18           "(3) Adopt an annual budget and authorize necessary  
19 expenditures from fees and other available appropriations,  
20 ~~provided, in.~~ In no event shall the expenditures of the board  
21 exceed the revenues in any fiscal year.

22           "(4) Adopt a code of ethics.

23           "(5) Provide for the inspection, during normal  
24 business hours, of the business premises of any licensee  
25 ~~during normal business hours,~~ individual, or business holding  
26 itself out as licensed by the board including, but not limited  
27 to, advertising as performing massage therapy services.

1           "(6) Establish a list of approved massage therapy  
2 schools.

3           "§34-43-9.

4           "(a) A person desiring to be licensed as a massage  
5 therapist shall apply to the board on forms provided by the  
6 board. Unless licensed pursuant to subsection (b), applicants  
7 for licensure shall submit evidence satisfactory to the board  
8 that they have met each of the following requirements:

9           "(1) Satisfactorily completed a minimum of ~~500~~ 650  
10 hours of supervised courses of instruction ~~which shall~~  
11 ~~include, but not be limited to, anatomy, pathology,~~  
12 ~~physiology, massage techniques, clinical practices, ethics,~~  
13 ~~health, hygiene, and related subjects. The board shall~~  
14 ~~determine how the 500 hours of instruction shall be broken~~  
15 ~~down. The course of instruction may be provided by a massage~~  
16 ~~therapy school approved by the board. The minimum 500 hours~~  
17 ~~shall consist of the following: 325 hours dedicated to the~~  
18 ~~study of basic massage therapy techniques and clinical~~  
19 ~~practice related modalities; 125 hours dedicated to the study~~  
20 ~~of anatomy, pathology, and physiology; and an additional 50~~  
21 ~~hours of discretionary related course work, including, but not~~  
22 ~~limited to, hydrotherapy, business practices and professional~~  
23 ~~ethics, health and hygiene, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation~~  
24 ~~and first aid. Beginning January 1, 1998, applicants for~~  
25 ~~licensure shall be required to complete a minimum of 650 hours~~  
26 ~~of instruction. By rule of the board, the minimum 650 hours~~  
27 ~~shall consist of the following: 100 hours of anatomy and~~

1 ~~physiology to include 35 hours of myology, 15 hours of~~  
2 ~~osteology, 10 hours of circulatory system, and 10 hours of~~  
3 ~~nervous system, with the remaining 30 hours to address other~~  
4 ~~body systems at the discretion of the school; 250 hours of~~  
5 ~~basic massage therapy, the contradistinctions of massage~~  
6 ~~therapy, and related touch therapy modalities, to include a~~  
7 ~~minimum of 50 hours of supervised massage; 50 hours to include~~  
8 ~~business, hydrotherapy, first aid, cardiopulmonary~~  
9 ~~resuscitation, and professional ethics; and 250 hours of~~  
10 ~~electives to be determined by the school the content of which~~  
11 ~~shall be determined by rule of the board.~~ The board may adopt  
12 a rule to further increase the minimum number of hours of  
13 instruction required for licensure, ~~not to exceed the number~~  
14 ~~of hours recommended by the National Certification Board for~~  
15 ~~Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork.~~ Before performing  
16 therapeutic massage on an animal, a massage therapist shall  
17 graduate from a nationally approved program and complete at  
18 least 100 hours of postgraduate training and education in  
19 animal anatomy, pathology, and physiology for the type of  
20 animal upon which the massage therapist wishes to perform  
21 therapeutic massage.

22 " (2) ~~Passed the National Certification Exam for~~  
23 ~~Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork offered by the National~~  
24 ~~Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork or an~~  
25 ~~examination of equivalent stature that is accredited by the~~  
26 ~~National Committee for Certifying Agencies a board approved~~  
27 ~~exam for therapeutic massage and bodywork.~~

1           "(b) Notwithstanding the requirements in  
2 subdivisions (1) and (2) of subsection (a), the board may  
3 license an applicant if the applicant is licensed or  
4 registered in another state, which, in the opinion of the  
5 board, has standards of practice or licensure that are equal  
6 to or stricter than the requirements imposed by this chapter.

7           "(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this  
8 section to the contrary, each applicant for licensure shall ~~be~~  
9 ~~a citizen of the United States or, if not a citizen of the~~  
10 ~~United States, a person who is legally present in the United~~  
11 ~~States with appropriate documentation from the federal~~  
12 ~~government~~ comply with federal and state immigration law  
13 requirements and be 18 years of age, with a high school  
14 diploma or graduate equivalency diploma, and be subject to a  
15 criminal history background information check.

16           "(d) The board may notify each applicant of the  
17 acceptance or rejection of his or her application. If the  
18 application is rejected, the board shall list the reasons for  
19 rejection.

20           "§34-43-11.

21           "(a) Establishments shall be licensed by the board.  
22 A sexually oriented business may not be licensed as an  
23 establishment and shall not operate as an establishment  
24 licensed pursuant to this chapter.

25           "(b) Establishments shall employ only licensed  
26 massage therapists to perform massage therapy.

1           "~~(c) The board shall provide by rule, for a fair and~~  
2 ~~reasonable procedure to grant exemptions from the licensure~~  
3 ~~requirement of this section when the applicant can show that~~  
4 ~~the advertising of massage therapy services is incidental to~~  
5 ~~the primary function of his or her business. No such exemption~~  
6 ~~shall be granted to a sexually oriented business. The board~~  
7 ~~shall have the power to revoke or suspend the license of a~~  
8 ~~massage therapy establishment licensed under this chapter, or~~  
9 ~~to deny licensure of such establishment, in any of the~~  
10 ~~following cases:~~

11           "(1) Upon proof that a license has been obtained by  
12 fraud or misrepresentation.

13           "(2) Upon proof that the holder of a license is  
14 guilty of fraud or deceit or of gross negligence,  
15 incompetency, or misconduct in the operation of the  
16 establishment so licensed.

17           "(d) An establishment license issued pursuant to  
18 this chapter is not assignable or transferable.

19           "~~(e) Subsequent to an official complaint, the The~~  
20 ~~board may conduct or request a criminal history background~~  
21 ~~information check of the ~~establishment's~~ licensees of an~~  
22 ~~establishment through the district attorney of the circuit in~~  
23 ~~which the licensee is located.~~

24           "(f) The board shall specify the elements of the  
25 criminal history background information check and shall  
26 formulate the process and procedures to conduct such checks.

1           "(g) The renewal of the license of a massage therapy  
2 establishment shall be accomplished pursuant to rules adopted  
3 by the board. The board may also adopt rules governing  
4 delinquent renewal of licenses and may impose penalty fees for  
5 delinquent renewal.

6           "§34-43-12.

7           "(a) Applications for licensure or renewal shall be  
8 on forms provided by the board and shall be accompanied by the  
9 proper fee. The application shall be legible, either printed  
10 in black ink or typed. Applications sent by facsimile shall  
11 not be accepted. A two-by-two photograph, taken no more than  
12 six months earlier, showing a frontal view of the head and  
13 shoulders of the applicant, shall be submitted with the  
14 application. All documents shall be submitted in English.

15           "(b) The board shall issue a license to each person  
16 who qualifies to be a massage therapist and to each qualified  
17 massage therapy establishment. To be qualified for a license  
18 as a massage therapist the applicant shall be subject to a  
19 criminal history background information check, successfully  
20 pass the examination, pay the examination fee, and pay the  
21 license fee. A license grants all professional rights, honors,  
22 and privileges relating to the practice of massage therapy.

23           "(c) The board shall specify the elements of the  
24 criminal history background information check, the amount of  
25 the fee assessed for performing the criminal history  
26 background information check, and shall formulate the process

1 and procedures for conducting criminal history background  
2 information checks.

3 "~~(e)~~ (d) Each licensed massage therapist shall  
4 display his or her license in the manner specified by the  
5 board. Each establishment shall post its license in plain  
6 sight and the license of each massage therapist who practices  
7 in the establishment.

8 "~~(d)~~ (e) A license is the property of the board and  
9 shall be surrendered upon demand of the board.

10 "§34-43-14.

11 "(a) By rule, the board shall initially assess and  
12 collect the following fees not to exceed:

13 "~~(1) One hundred sixty dollars (\$160) for the~~  
14 ~~examination.~~

15 "~~(2)~~ (1) One hundred dollars (\$100) for ~~the~~ an  
16 initial massage therapist license which shall be issued for  
17 one year. The initial licensing fee shall be assessed in the  
18 month when the applicant is notified that the license has been  
19 approved.

20 "~~(3)~~ (2) One hundred dollars (\$100) for all biennial  
21 license renewals postmarked or received at the office of the  
22 board by the date in which the license expires.

23 "~~(4)~~ (3) Twenty-five dollars (\$25) for ~~the~~ an initial  
24 application for licensure or the resubmission of ~~the~~ an  
25 initial application.

26 "~~(5)~~ (4) One hundred dollars (\$100) for ~~the~~ an  
27 initial establishment license.



1           "~~(6)~~(5) Fifty dollars (\$50) for the biennial renewal  
2 of ~~the~~ an establishment license.

3           "~~(7)~~(6) Fifty dollars (\$50) for ~~the~~ an initial  
4 registration as a massage therapy school ~~in this state~~.

5           "~~(8)~~ ~~Ten dollars (\$10)~~ (7) Fifty dollars (\$50) to  
6 renew ~~the~~ registration as a massage therapy school.

7           "~~(9)~~ ~~Ten dollars (\$10)~~ ~~to register~~ (8) Twenty-five  
8 dollars (\$25) for initial and renewal licenses as a massage  
9 therapy instructor ~~in this state~~. ~~This is a one-time fee and~~  
10 ~~does not have to be renewed~~.

11           "~~(10)~~(9) Seventy-five dollars (\$75) ~~to reactivate~~  
12 biennially to receive an inactive license.

13           "~~(11)~~(10) Twenty-five dollars (\$25) shall be added  
14 to all license fees not post-marked or received by the board  
15 before the expiration date of the license.

16           "~~(12)~~(11) Fifteen dollars (\$15) to verify a license.

17           "~~(13)~~(12) Ten dollars (\$10) for a duplicate license  
18 certificate or a name change on a license certificate. ~~The~~  
19 ~~board may issue a duplicate certificate only after receiving a~~  
20 ~~sworn letter from the massage therapist that the original~~  
21 ~~certificate was lost, stolen, or destroyed. The records of the~~  
22 ~~board shall reflect that a duplicate certificate was issued.~~

23           "(b) The continuing education provider fee charged  
24 by the board may not exceed two hundred dollars (\$200).

25           "~~(b)~~(c) Necessary administrative fees may be charged  
26 by the board, including, but not limited to, reasonable costs

1 for copying, labels, and lists. Examination and license fees  
2 may be adjusted as the board shall deem appropriate.

3 "~~(c)~~ (d) There is hereby established a separate  
4 special revenue trust fund in the State Treasury to be known  
5 as the Alabama Board of Massage Therapy Fund. All receipts  
6 collected by the board under ~~the provisions of~~ this chapter  
7 are to be deposited in this fund and used only to carry out  
8 the provisions of this chapter. ~~Such receipts~~ Receipts shall  
9 be disbursed only by warrant of the ~~state~~ Comptroller, upon  
10 itemized vouchers approved by the chair of the board; provided  
11 that no funds shall be withdrawn except as budgeted and  
12 allotted according to ~~the provisions of~~ Sections 41-4-80 to  
13 41-4-96, inclusive, 41-19-1, and 41-19-12, as amended, and  
14 only in amounts as stipulated in the general appropriations  
15 bill or other appropriations bills.

16 "§34-43-15.

17 "(a) The board may suspend, or revoke, ~~or refuse to~~  
18 ~~issue or renew~~ a license ~~or~~ and impose a civil penalty after  
19 notice and opportunity for a hearing pursuant to the  
20 Administrative Procedure Act, upon proof of any of the  
21 following:

22 "(1) The license was obtained by means of fraud,  
23 misrepresentation, or concealment of material facts, including  
24 making a false statement on an application or any other  
25 document required by the board for licensure.

1           "(2) The licensee sold or bartered or offered to  
2 sell or barter a license for a massage therapist or a massage  
3 therapy establishment.

4           "(3) The licensee has engaged in unprofessional  
5 conduct that has endangered or is likely to endanger the  
6 health, safety, and welfare of the public, as defined by the  
7 rules of the board.

8           "(4) The licensee has been convicted of a felony or  
9 of any crime involving a sexual offense or any crime arising  
10 out of or connected with the practice of massage therapy.

11           "(5) The licensee has violated or aided and abetted  
12 in the violation of this chapter.

13           "(6) The licensee is adjudicated as mentally  
14 incompetent by a court of law.

15           "(7) The licensee uses controlled substances or  
16 habitually and excessively uses alcohol.

17           "(8) The licensee engaged in false, deceptive, or  
18 misleading advertising.

19           "(9) The licensee had a license revoked, suspended,  
20 or denied in any other territory or jurisdiction of the United  
21 States for any act described in this section or was convicted  
22 of practicing massage therapy without a license in another  
23 state.

24           "(10) The licensee is practicing or offering to  
25 practice beyond the scope permitted by law or accepting and  
26 performing professional responsibilities which the licensee

1 knows or has reason to know that she or he is not competent to  
2 perform.

3 "(11) The licensee is delegating professional  
4 responsibilities to a person when the licensee delegating such  
5 responsibilities knows or has reason to know that such person  
6 is not qualified by training, experience, or licensure to  
7 perform.

8 "(12) The licensee is violating a lawful order of  
9 the board previously entered in a disciplinary hearing or is  
10 failing to comply with a lawfully issued subpoena of the  
11 board.

12 "(13) The licensee has failed to permit the board to  
13 inspect the business premises of the licensee during regular  
14 business hours.

15 "(14) The licensee is practicing massage therapy at  
16 a site, location, or place which is not duly licensed as a  
17 massage therapy establishment.

18 "(b) Any person who has been convicted of, or  
19 entered a plea of nolo contendere to, a crime or offense  
20 involving prostitution or other sexual offenses is ineligible  
21 to hold a license as a massage therapist for a period of at  
22 least three years after the entry of the conviction or plea.  
23 The board retains the right to revoke a license indefinitely  
24 if the licensee is proven guilty of a crime or of sexual  
25 misconduct. Reinstatement of licensure is contingent upon  
26 proof of weekly counseling by a licensed professional  
27 counselor.

1           "(c) Any person who has been convicted of, or  
2 entered a plea of nolo contendere to, an offense involving  
3 prostitution or any other type of sexual offense may not  
4 receive a license for a massage therapy establishment for a  
5 period of three years after the date of conviction or entry of  
6 the plea. The board shall revoke the establishment license of  
7 any establishment which the board determines is a sexually  
8 oriented business. The board may revoke an establishment  
9 license if a person is convicted of, or enters a plea of nolo  
10 contendere to, any crime involving prostitution or any other  
11 sexual offense against a client which occurred on the premises  
12 of the establishment.

13           "(d) (1) Upon finding a person, licensee, or  
14 establishment guilty of any violation governed by this  
15 chapter, ~~performing massage therapy without having obtained a~~  
16 ~~license,~~ the board may do any of the following:

17           "a. Impose an administrative fine of not more than  
18 ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

19           "b. Issue a cease and desist order.

20           "c. Petition the circuit court of the county where  
21 the ~~act~~ violation occurred to enforce the cease and desist  
22 order and collect the assessed fine.

23           "d. Assess all reasonable costs related to the  
24 investigation and prosecution of the violation against the  
25 guilty person, licensee, or establishment.

26           "(2) ~~Any~~ An appeal by a person aggrieved by any an  
27 adverse action of the board ~~must appeal the action~~ shall be to

1 the Circuit Court of Montgomery County in accordance with the  
2 Alabama Administrative Procedure Act.

3 "§34-43-17.

4 "Any person who violates this chapter shall be  
5 guilty of a Class C misdemeanor.

6 "§34-43-20.

7 "(a) To be approved by the board, a massage therapy  
8 school shall meet all of the following requirements:

9 "(1) File a completed application prescribed by the  
10 board with the board and pay a registration fee as specified  
11 in Section 34-43-14.

12 "(2) Provide documentation of a curriculum which  
13 includes a minimum number of required hours of instruction in  
14 the subjects required pursuant to Section 34-43-9.

15 "(3) Register annually with the board by filing a  
16 renewal form accompanied with the renewal fee pursuant to  
17 Section 34-43-14, and submit a current curriculum and a list  
18 of instructors.

19 "(b) Every instructor teaching course work ~~titled in~~ in  
20 massage ~~therapy~~ modalities at a board approved school located  
21 in Alabama shall be licensed in Alabama as a massage therapist  
22 and registered as a massage therapy instructor. Instructors  
23 who are not teaching massage therapy do not need to be  
24 registered. Any adjunct instructors shall be dually licensed  
25 in the state where they reside, be nationally certified, or  
26 both.

1           "(c) The board shall register as a massage therapy  
2 instructor any applicant who meets all of the following  
3 requirements:

4           "(1) Is currently licensed as a massage therapist in  
5 Alabama.

6           "(2) Has filed a completed application prescribed by  
7 the board and paid a ~~one-time application~~ fee pursuant to  
8 Section 34-43-14.

9           "(3) Documents ~~two~~ four years of experience in the  
10 practice of massage therapy. The documentation may be  
11 considered by the board on a case-by-case basis.

12           "§34-43-21.

13           "(a) Every massage therapist licensed pursuant to  
14 this chapter shall be required to complete 16 hours of  
15 continuing education as a condition for renewing his or her  
16 license. The continuing education courses shall be offered by  
17 providers approved by the board. The courses shall have been  
18 completed within the 24 months preceding the date renewal is  
19 due. Hours in excess of the total number required may not be  
20 carried over to future renewals. The continuing education  
21 requirements shall not apply to a massage therapist within the  
22 biennium when the massage therapist is first licensed, but  
23 shall apply to licensees every biennium thereafter. The board  
24 may accept for compliance with the continuing education  
25 requirement any of the following:

26           "(1) Courses or providers which contribute directly  
27 to the massage therapy education of the licensee.

1           "(2) Courses, seminars, workshops, and classes in  
2 areas related to the practice of massage therapy such as:  
3 Massage, bodywork, allied health care fields (including  
4 psychology and medicine), anatomy and physiology, business,  
5 insurance, movement therapy, stress management, yoga, CPR, and  
6 advanced first aid.

7           "(3) Courses of study offered by registered massage  
8 therapy schools in Alabama, or by massage therapy instructors  
9 registered with the board, or by any national organization in  
10 the field of massage therapy or related touch therapy field.

11           "(b) Up to 25 percent, or four hours of credit, of  
12 the required number of hours of continuing education may be  
13 earned in each of the following areas:

14           "(1) Teaching a qualifying class, course, seminar,  
15 or workshop.

16           "(2) Publishing an article in the field relating to  
17 massage therapy.

18           "(3) Speaking on the subject of massage therapy.

19           "(4) Being a panelist discussing massage therapy.

20           "(5) Participating in a personal growth class.

21           "(6) Two hours of professional ethics.

22           "(c) Each of the areas listed in subsection (b) may  
23 be used for up to four hours of credit depending on the actual  
24 contact hours. One continuing education credit is defined as  
25 no less than 50 uninterrupted minutes of learning, except that  
26 publishing an article will automatically count for four hours.  
27 Continuing education credit may not be awarded for programs



1 which do not relate to subjects listed in this section, or for  
2 repeated courses submitted the previous biennium, except for  
3 courses listed in subsection (b). The board may select, in a  
4 random manner, license renewal applications for audit of  
5 continuing education credit. Each licensee shall be  
6 responsible for maintaining in his or her personal files the  
7 certificates or records of credit from continuing education  
8 programs received from approved program providers. Each  
9 licensee selected for audit shall be required to produce  
10 documentation of attendance at those continuing education  
11 activities listed on his or her renewal application.

12 ~~"(1) The board shall send to each licensee selected~~  
13 ~~for audit, a notice of audit.~~ The licensee shall provide  
14 satisfactory documentation of attendance at, or participation  
15 in, the approved continuing education programs listed in the  
16 renewal application.

17 "(2) The licensee shall ascertain that the  
18 continuing education program is approved by the board.

19 "(d) The board shall evaluate applications from all  
20 providers of continuing education programs, including massage  
21 therapy schools and instructors, in order to determine if  
22 approval shall be granted or denied.

23 ~~"(1)~~ The provider or licensee shall submit to the  
24 board an application on a form provided by the board. Only  
25 applications which are complete will be considered.

26 ~~"(2) The provider or licensee shall submit a~~  
27 ~~complete application to the board at least 60 days prior to~~

1 ~~the date on which the training event is to be given to gain~~  
2 ~~approval before the program is presented.~~

3 "(e) The board is subject to the Alabama Sunset Law  
4 of 1981, and is classified as an enumerated agency pursuant to  
5 Section 41-20-3. The board shall automatically terminate on  
6 October 1, 2007, and every four years thereafter, unless  
7 continued pursuant to the Alabama Sunset Law."

8 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the  
9 first day of the third month following its passage and  
10 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.