

1 SB189  
2 155922-1  
3 By Senator Smitherman  
4 RFD: Small Business  
5 First Read: 15-JAN-14

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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 delete the requirement that  
12 a massage therapy school located in Alabama be  
13 accredited by the State Department of Education.

14 This bill would expand the persons exempt  
15 from the chapter and would delete any reference to  
16 a temporary permit to practice massage therapy.

17 This bill would delete antiquated language.

18 This bill would provide the board with  
19 compensation.

20 This bill would change the name of the  
21 executive secretary to executive director.

22 This bill would list reasons for excused  
23 absences from board meetings.

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

1           This bill would increase the minimum hours  
2 of supervised course instruction for licensure.

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

9           This bill would delete the limit placed on  
10 the number of times an applicant can take the board  
11 examination.

12           This bill would delete the requirement that  
13 a record of each board exam be filed with the board  
14 office and available for inspection for two years.

15           This bill would authorize the board to  
16 assess and collect certain fees.

17           This bill would increase the discretion of  
18 the board to provide for licensure to  
19 establishments.

20           This bill would expand the board's authority  
21 to revoke or suspend licenses.

22           Under existing law, violations of this  
23 chapter are a Class C misdemeanor.

24           This bill would change the penalties to a  
25 Class A misdemeanor.

26           Amendment 621 of the Constitution of Alabama  
27 of 1901, now appearing as Section 111.05 of the

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

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

19  
20 A BILL

21 TO BE ENTITLED

22 AN ACT

23  
24 Relating to the Alabama Massage Therapy Licensure  
25 Act; to amend Sections 34-43-3, 34-43-5, 34-43-6, 34-43-7,  
26 34-43-9, 34-43-10, 34-43-11, 34-43-12, 34-43-14, 34-43-15,  
27 34-43-17, 34-43-20, and 34-43-21, Code of Alabama 1975, to

1 delete the requirement that a massage therapy school be  
2 accredited by the State Department of Education; to delete any  
3 reference to a temporary permit to practice massage therapy;  
4 to expand the definition of therapeutic massage and extend  
5 exemptions to the act; to delete antiquated language; to  
6 provide the board with compensation; to change the name of the  
7 executive secretary to executive director; to provide excuse  
8 for absences from board meetings; to delete requirements that  
9 the oath of office of board members be filed with the Governor  
10 and that certificates of appointments be issued; to increase  
11 the minimum hours of supervised course instruction for  
12 licensure; to require that applicants for licensure be 18  
13 years old with a high school diploma or equivalent and be  
14 subject to a criminal history information background check; to  
15 authorize the board to assess and collect certain fees; to  
16 increase the discretion of the board to provide for licensure  
17 to establishments; to expand the board's authority to revoke  
18 or suspend licenses; to change the penalty for violating the  
19 act from a Class C misdemeanor to a Class A misdemeanor; and  
20 in connection therewith would have as its purpose or effect  
21 the requirement of a new or increased expenditure of local  
22 funds within the meaning of Amendment 621 of the Constitution  
23 of Alabama of 1901, now appearing as Section 111.05 of the  
24 Official Recompilation of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901,  
25 as amended.

26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

1                   Section 1. Sections 34-43-3, 34-43-5, 34-43-6,  
2                   34-43-7, 34-43-9, 34-43-11, 34-43-12, 34-43-14, 34-43-15,  
3                   34-43-17, 34-43-20, and 34-43-21 of the Code of Alabama 1975,  
4                   are amended to read as follows:

5                   "§34-43-3.

6                   "For purposes of this chapter, the following terms  
7                   shall have the following meanings:

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

12                  "(2) BOARD. The Alabama Board of Massage Therapy  
13                  created pursuant to this chapter.

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

16                  "a. If located in Alabama is approved by the board  
17                  as meeting the minimum established standards of training and  
18                  curriculum as determined by the board.

19                  "b. If located outside of Alabama is recognized by  
20                  the board and by a regionally recognized professional  
21                  accrediting body.

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

24                  "(4) ESTABLISHMENT. A site, premises, or business  
25                  where massage therapy is practiced by a licensed massage  
26                  therapist.

1           "(5) EXAMINATION. A ~~National~~ Certification Exam For  
2 Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork ~~Examination~~ administered by  
3 an independent agency or another ~~nationally or internationally~~  
4 ~~accredited~~ national or international exam administered by an  
5 independent agency per approval of the board. ~~The examination~~  
6 ~~will be accredited by the National Committee for Certifying~~  
7 ~~Agencies.~~ The board retains the right to administer a written,  
8 oral, or practical examination.

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

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

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

17           "~~(7)~~(9) MASSAGE THERAPIST. A person licensed  
18 pursuant to this chapter who practices or administers massage  
19 therapy or touch therapy modalities to a patron for  
20 compensation.

21           "~~(8)~~(10) MASSAGE THERAPY INSTRUCTOR. A licensed  
22 massage therapist approved by the board to teach the practice  
23 of massage therapy.

24           "~~(9)~~(11) PERSON. Any individual, firm, corporation,  
25 partnership, organization, association, trustee, lessee,  
26 agent, assignee, or other legal entity.

1           "~~(10)~~(12) SEXUALLY ORIENTED BUSINESS. A sex parlor,  
2           massage parlor, nude studio, modeling studio, love parlor,  
3           adult bookstore, adult movie theater, adult video arcade,  
4           adult motel, or other commercial enterprise which has ~~as its~~  
5           ~~primary~~ any business ~~the~~ offering for sale, rent, or exhibit,  
6           or the exhibit of, items or services intended to provide  
7           sexual stimulation or sexual gratification to the customer.

8           "~~(11)~~(13) STUDENT OF MASSAGE THERAPY. Any person  
9           currently enrolled in an Alabama massage therapy school  
10          program approved by the board.

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

15          "~~(13)~~(14) THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE AND RELATED TOUCH  
16          THERAPY MODALITIES. The mobilization of the soft tissue which  
17          may include skin, fascia, tendons, ligaments, and muscles, for  
18          the purpose of establishing and maintaining good physical  
19          condition. The term shall include effleurage, petrissage,  
20          tapotement, compression, vibration, stretching, heliotherapy,  
21          superficial hot and cold applications, topical applications,  
22          or other therapy which involves movement either by hand,  
23          forearm, elbow, or foot, for the purpose of therapeutic  
24          massage. Massage therapy may include the external application  
25          and use of herbal or chemical preparations and lubricants such  
26          as salts, powders, liquids, nonprescription creams, mechanical  
27          devises such as T-bars, thumpers, body support systems, heat



1 lamps, hot and cold packs, salt glow, steam cabinet baths or  
2 hydrotherapy. The term includes any massage, movement therapy,  
3 massage technology, myotherapy, accupressure, deep tissue  
4 therapy, or massotherapy, oriental massage techniques,  
5 structural integration, or polarity therapy. The term does not  
6 include directed movement therapy, including, but not limited  
7 to, the Feldenkrais method of somatic education, the Trager  
8 approach to movement education, the Rosen method, and  
9 body-mind centering and energy field work, including, but not  
10 limited to, Polarity Therapy, Reiki, Reflexology, Touch for  
11 Health, or Jin Shin Do, provided these services are not  
12 designated or implied to be massage or massage therapy. The  
13 term ~~shall~~ also does not include laser therapy, microwave,  
14 injection therapy, manipulation of the joints, or any  
15 diagnosis or treatment of an illness that normally involves  
16 the practice of medicine, chiropractic, physical therapy,  
17 podiatry, nursing, occupational therapy, veterinary,  
18 acupuncture, osteopathy, orthopedics, hypnosis, ~~or~~  
19 naturopathics, or any other modality designated by the board.

20 "§34-43-5.

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

23 "(1) A student of massage therapy who is rendering  
24 massage therapy services under the supervision of a licensed  
25 massage therapy instructor, or any other supervisory  
26 arrangement recognized and approved by the board, ~~including,~~  
27 ~~but not limited to, a temporary permit.~~ The student shall be

1 designated by title clearly indicating the training status of  
2 the student.

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

8 "(3) A person giving massages to his or her  
9 immediate family.

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

18 "(5) Members of the Massage Emergency Rescue Team  
19 (MERT) or any other nationally or internationally recognized  
20 disaster relief association who practice massage therapy in  
21 the state only during a time declared by the Governor to be a  
22 city, county, or state emergency. These therapists may work in  
23 the state for a period of time approved by the board.

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

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

5           "(8) The office of a chiropractor, physician, or  
6 physical therapist who employs or contracts with a massage  
7 therapist. It is the specific intent of this subdivision that  
8 a chiropractor, physician, or physical therapist and his or  
9 her office not be required to be licensed as an establishment  
10 under this chapter or be required to obtain any exemption  
11 under this chapter from the board.

12           "(9) Persons who restrict their manipulation of the  
13 soft tissue of the human body to the hands, feet, or ears and  
14 do not hold themselves out to be massage therapists or to do  
15 massage or massage therapy.

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

23           "(11) Persons who use touch, words, and directed  
24 movement to deepen awareness of existing patterns of movement  
25 in the body as well as to suggest new possibilities of  
26 movement while engaged in the scope of practice of a  
27 profession with established standards and ethics, provided

1 that their services are not designated or implied to be  
2 massage or massage therapy and involve only incidental contact  
3 or manipulation of soft tissue. These practices include, but  
4 are not limited to, the Feldenkrais method of somatic  
5 education, the Trager approach to movement education, the  
6 Rosen method, and body-mind centering.

7 "(b) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to  
8 permit massage therapists licensed under this chapter to  
9 administer, dispense, or prescribe drugs, or engage in the  
10 practice of medicine in any manner, including, but not limited  
11 to, diagnosing or prescribing drugs for mental, emotional, or  
12 physical diseases, illnesses, or injuries.

13 "§34-43-6.

14 "(a) There is created the Alabama Board of Massage  
15 Therapy. The purpose of the board is to protect the health,  
16 safety, and welfare of the public by ensuring that licensed  
17 massage therapists, massage therapy schools, and massage  
18 therapy instructors meet prescribed standards of education,  
19 competency, and practice. To accomplish this mission, the  
20 board shall establish standards pursuant to this chapter to  
21 complete all board functions in a timely and effective manner  
22 and to provide open and immediate access to all relevant  
23 public information. The board shall communicate its  
24 responsibilities and services to the public as part of its  
25 consumer protection duties. The board shall develop and  
26 implement a long range plan to ensure effective regulation and  
27 consumer protection.

1           "(b) The board shall consist of seven members  
2 appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the  
3 Senate. No member of the board shall serve more than two full  
4 consecutive terms. The members initially appointed to the  
5 board shall be appointed not later than July 16, 1996. Five of  
6 the members initially appointed to the board shall have been  
7 actively engaged in the practice of massage therapy for not  
8 less than three consecutive years prior to the date of their  
9 appointment to the board. Successor members to these initial  
10 five appointees shall be licensees of the board. Two members  
11 shall be public members who shall not be licensed, nor have  
12 been licensed in the past, and shall not have any direct  
13 financial interest in the massage therapy profession. Each  
14 board member shall be a high school graduate or shall have  
15 received a graduate equivalency diploma. Each board member  
16 shall be selected upon personal merit and qualifications, not  
17 per membership or affiliation with an association. Each board  
18 member shall be a citizen of the United States ~~and this state~~  
19 and a resident of this state for two years immediately  
20 preceding the appointment. The membership of the board shall  
21 be inclusive and reflect the racial, gender, geographic,  
22 urban/rural, and economic diversity of the state. As the terms  
23 of members serving on April 28, 2011, expire, or as vacancies  
24 occur, new members shall be appointed so that not more than  
25 one member from each United States Congressional District is  
26 appointed to serve at the same time.

1           "~~(c) Of the initial seven appointees to the board,~~  
2           ~~three members shall be appointed for terms ending September~~  
3           ~~30, 1997, and four members shall be appointed for terms ending~~  
4           ~~September 30, 1999. Thereafter, successors shall be appointed~~  
5           ~~for terms of four years, each term expiring on September 30.~~

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

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

14          "~~(f) The board shall hold its first meeting within~~  
15          ~~30 days after the initial members are appointed.~~ (e) The board  
16          shall hold meetings during the year as it determines  
17          necessary, ~~two of which shall be the biannual meetings for the~~  
18          ~~purpose of reviewing license applications.~~ Additional meetings  
19          may be held at the discretion of the chair or upon written  
20          request of any three members of the board. A quorum of the  
21          board shall be a majority of the current appointed board  
22          members.

23          "~~(g)~~ (f) Board members shall ~~not receive compensation~~  
24          ~~for their services, but shall receive the same per diem and~~  
25          ~~allowance as provided to state employees for each day the~~  
26          ~~board meets and conducts business~~ receive one hundred dollars  
27          (\$100) per day for attending sessions of the board or board

1 committees and, in addition, shall be reimbursed for such  
2 necessary travel expenses as are paid to state employees, to  
3 be paid from fees collected.

4 "~~(h)~~(g) The board shall promulgate the rules  
5 necessary to implement this chapter pursuant to the  
6 Administrative Procedure Act.

7 "~~(i)~~(h) The board may employ, and at its pleasure  
8 discharge, an executive ~~secretary~~ director and other officers  
9 and employees which may be necessary, including an attorney,  
10 to implement this chapter. The board shall also outline the  
11 duties and fix the compensation and expense allowances of the  
12 employees.

13 "~~(j)~~(i) An affirmative vote of a majority of the  
14 members of the board shall be required to grant, suspend, or  
15 revoke a license to practice massage therapy or a license to  
16 operate a massage therapy establishment.

17 "~~(k)~~(j) The board shall be financed only from income  
18 accruing to ~~it~~ the board from fees, licenses, other charges,  
19 and funds collected by ~~it~~ the board, and any monies that are  
20 appropriated to it by the Legislature.

21 "~~(i)~~(k) Each board member shall be accountable to  
22 the Governor for the proper performance of his or her duties  
23 as a member of the board. The board shall report to the  
24 Governor annually and at other times as requested by the  
25 Governor. The Governor shall investigate any complaints or  
26 unfavorable reports concerning the actions of the board and  
27 take appropriate action thereon, including removal of any

1 board member for misfeasance, malfeasance, neglect of duty,  
2 commission of a felony, incompetence, or permanent inability  
3 to perform official duties. A board member may be removed at  
4 the request of the board after failing to attend two  
5 consecutive properly noticed meetings. Excused absences of a  
6 board member are absences due to any of the following:

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

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

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

14 "~~(m)~~ (1) Members of the board are immune from  
15 liability for all good faith acts performed in the execution  
16 of their duties as members of the board.

17 "~~(n)~~ (m) Appointees to the board shall take the  
18 constitutional oath of office and file it in the board office  
19 ~~of the Governor before undertaking any duties as a board~~  
20 ~~member. Upon receiving the oath, the Governor shall issue a~~  
21 ~~certificate of appointment to each appointee.~~

22 "§34-43-7.

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

25 "(1) Examine and qualify for examination applicants  
26 for licensure and issue a license to each successful  
27 applicant.



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

3           "(3) Prescribe application forms for examination and  
4 licensure and assess and collect fees pursuant to this  
5 chapter.

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

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

14           "(6) Adopt and revise rules and regulations pursuant  
15 to the Administrative Procedure Act, including the adoption of  
16 rules concerning unprofessional conduct.

17           "(7) Provide a copy of this chapter to all persons  
18 licensed under this chapter and to all applicants for  
19 licensure.

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

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

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

1           "(1) Accept or deny the application of any person  
2 applying for licensure as a massage therapist upon an  
3 affirmative vote of a majority of the board .

4           "(2) Allow the executive director to accept or deny  
5 the application of any person applying for licensure as a  
6 massage therapist.

7           "~~(2)~~(3) Establish criteria for certifying massage  
8 therapy instructors.

9           "~~(3)~~(4) Adopt an annual budget and authorize  
10 necessary expenditures from fees and other available  
11 appropriations, provided, in no event shall the expenditures  
12 of the board exceed the revenues in any fiscal year.

13           "~~(4)~~(5) Adopt a code of ethics.

14           "~~(5)~~(6) Provide for the inspection, during normal  
15 business hours, of the business premises of any licensee  
16 during normal business hours, individual, or business holding  
17 itself out as licensed by the board, including, but not  
18 limited to, advertising as performing massage therapy  
19 services.

20           "~~(6)~~(7) Establish a list of approved massage therapy  
21 schools.

22           "§34-43-9.

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

1                   "(1) Satisfactorily completed a minimum of ~~500~~ 650  
2 hours of supervised courses of instruction ~~which shall~~  
3 ~~include, but not be limited to, anatomy, pathology,~~  
4 ~~physiology, massage techniques, clinical practices, ethics,~~  
5 ~~health, hygiene, and related subjects. The board shall~~  
6 ~~determine how the 500 hours of instruction shall be broken~~  
7 ~~down. The course of instruction may be provided by a massage~~  
8 ~~therapy school approved by the board. The minimum 500 hours~~  
9 ~~shall consist of the following: 325 hours dedicated to the~~  
10 ~~study of basic massage therapy techniques and clinical~~  
11 ~~practice related modalities; 125 hours dedicated to the study~~  
12 ~~of anatomy, pathology, and physiology; and an additional 50~~  
13 ~~hours of discretionary related course work, including, but not~~  
14 ~~limited to, hydrotherapy, business practices and professional~~  
15 ~~ethics, health and hygiene, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation~~  
16 ~~and first aid. Beginning January 1, 1998, applicants for~~  
17 ~~licensure shall be required to complete a minimum of 650 hours~~  
18 ~~of instruction. By rule of the board, the minimum 650 hours~~  
19 ~~shall consist of the following: 100 hours of anatomy and~~  
20 ~~physiology to include 35 hours of myology, 15 hours of~~  
21 ~~osteology, 10 hours of circulatory system, and 10 hours of~~  
22 ~~nervous system, with the remaining 30 hours to address other~~  
23 ~~body systems at the discretion of the school; 250 hours of~~  
24 ~~basic massage therapy, the contradistinctions of massage~~  
25 ~~therapy, and related touch therapy modalities, to include a~~  
26 ~~minimum of 50 hours of supervised massage; 50 hours to include~~  
27 ~~business, hydrotherapy, first aid, cardiopulmonary~~

1 ~~resuscitation, and professional ethics; and 250 hours of~~  
2 ~~electives to be determined by the school~~ the content of which  
3 shall be determined by rule of the board. The board may adopt  
4 a rule to further increase the minimum number of hours of  
5 instruction required for licensure, ~~not to exceed the number~~  
6 ~~of hours recommended by the National Certification Board for~~  
7 ~~Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork.~~ Before performing  
8 therapeutic massage on an animal, a massage therapist shall  
9 graduate from a nationally approved program and complete at  
10 least 100 hours of postgraduate training and education in  
11 animal anatomy, pathology, and physiology for the type of  
12 animal upon which the massage therapist wishes to perform  
13 therapeutic massage.

14 "(2) Passed ~~the~~ a National Certification Exam for  
15 Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork ~~offered by the National~~  
16 ~~Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork~~ or an  
17 examination of equivalent stature that is accredited by the  
18 National Committee for Certifying Agencies.

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

25 "(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this  
26 section to the contrary, each applicant for licensure shall be  
27 ~~a citizen of the United States or, if not a citizen of the~~

1 ~~United States, a person who is legally present in the United~~  
2 ~~States with appropriate documentation from the federal~~  
3 ~~government 18 years of age, with a high school diploma or~~  
4 ~~graduate equivalency diploma, and be subject to a criminal~~  
5 ~~history background information check.~~

6 "(d) The board may notify each applicant of the  
7 acceptance or rejection of his or her application. If the  
8 application is rejected, the board shall list the reasons for  
9 rejection.

10 "§34-43-10.

11 "(a) In the event that a massage therapist's  
12 examination is ~~required~~ administered by the board, it shall be  
13 conducted at the times and places and under the supervision  
14 determined by the board. The board shall notify each applicant  
15 of the time and place of the examination.

16 "(b) The board may determine by rule the scope,  
17 form, and content of the examination, which shall consist of a  
18 written examination and a practical examination or oral  
19 interview. The examination shall adequately measure the  
20 knowledge of the applicant of the practice of massage therapy.  
21 Professional testing services may be utilized.

22 "(c) An applicant shall successfully pass ~~the~~ an  
23 approved examination in order to be eligible for licensure as  
24 a massage therapist. The board shall notify each applicant in  
25 writing of the results of the examination. Any applicant who  
26 fails to pass the examination may take the examination again  
27 upon application and payment of an additional examination fee.

1 ~~No applicant shall be allowed to take the examination more~~  
2 ~~than twice in a two-year period.~~

3 ~~"(d) All examinations shall be conducted in a manner~~  
4 ~~so that the applicants are known to the board by number until~~  
5 ~~the examination is completed and the grade determined. A~~  
6 ~~record of each examination shall be filed with the board~~  
7 ~~office and available for inspection for a period of two years~~  
8 ~~following the examination.~~

9 "§34-43-11.

10 "(a) Establishments shall be licensed by the board.  
11 A sexually oriented business may not be licensed as an  
12 establishment and shall not operate as an establishment  
13 licensed pursuant to this chapter.

14 "(b) Establishments shall employ only licensed  
15 massage therapists to perform massage therapy.

16 "(c) The board shall provide by rule, for a fair and  
17 reasonable procedure to grant exemptions from the licensure  
18 requirement of this section ~~when the applicant can show that~~  
19 ~~the advertising of massage therapy services is incidental to~~  
20 ~~the primary function of his or her business. No such exemption~~  
21 ~~shall be granted to a sexually oriented business.~~

22 "(d) The board shall have the power to revoke or  
23 suspend the license of a massage therapy establishment  
24 licensed under this chapter, or to deny licensure of such  
25 establishment, in any of the following cases:

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

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

5           ~~"(d)~~ (e) An establishment license issued pursuant to  
6 this chapter is not assignable or transferable.

7           ~~"(e) Subsequent to an official complaint, the (f)~~  
8 The board may conduct or request a criminal history background  
9 information check of the establishment's licensees of an  
10 establishment through the district attorney of the circuit in  
11 which the licensee is located.

12           "(g) The board shall specify the elements of the  
13 criminal history background information checks and shall  
14 formulate the process and procedures to conduct such checks.

15           "(h) Renewal of license registration for massage  
16 therapy establishments shall be accomplished pursuant to rules  
17 adopted by the board. The board is further authorized to adopt  
18 rules governing delinquent renewal of licenses and may impose  
19 penalty fees for delinquent renewal.

20           "§34-43-12.

21           "(a) Applications for licensure or renewal shall be  
22 on forms provided by the board and shall be accompanied by the  
23 proper fee. The application shall be legible, either printed  
24 in black ink or typed. Applications sent by facsimile shall  
25 not be accepted. A two-by-two photograph, taken no more than  
26 six months earlier, showing a frontal view of the head and

1 shoulders of the applicant, shall be submitted with the  
2 application. All documents shall be submitted in English.

3 "(b) The board shall issue a license to each person  
4 who qualifies to be a massage therapist and to each qualified  
5 massage therapy establishment. To be qualified for a license  
6 as a massage therapist the applicant shall be subject to a  
7 criminal history background information check, successfully  
8 pass the examination, pay the examination fee, and pay the  
9 license fee. A license grants all professional rights, honors,  
10 and privileges relating to the practice of massage therapy.

11 "(c) The board shall specify the elements of the  
12 criminal history background information check and shall  
13 formulate the process and procedure for conducting criminal  
14 history background information checks.

15 "~~(c)~~ (d) Each licensed massage therapist shall  
16 display his or her license in the manner specified by the  
17 board. Each establishment shall post its license in plain  
18 sight and the license of each massage therapist who practices  
19 in the establishment.

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

22 "§34-43-14.

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

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



1           "~~(2) One hundred dollars (\$100)~~ (1) Two hundred  
2 dollars (\$200) for ~~the~~ an initial massage therapist license  
3 which shall be issued for one year. The initial licensing fee  
4 shall be assessed in the month when the applicant is notified  
5 that the license has been approved.

6           "~~(3) One hundred dollars (\$100)~~ (2) Three hundred  
7 dollars (\$300) for all biennial license renewals postmarked or  
8 received at the office of the board by the date in which the  
9 license expires.

10           "~~(4)~~ (3) Twenty-five dollars (\$25) for ~~the~~ an initial  
11 application for licensure or the resubmission of ~~the~~ an  
12 initial application.

13           "~~(5) One hundred dollars (\$100)~~ (4) Two hundred  
14 dollars (\$200) for ~~the~~ an initial establishment license.

15           "~~(6) Fifty dollars (\$50)~~ (5) Three hundred dollars  
16 (\$300) for the biennial renewal of ~~the~~ an establishment  
17 license.

18           "~~(7) Fifty dollars (\$50)~~ (6) Two hundred dollars  
19 (\$200) for ~~the~~ initial registration as a massage therapy  
20 school ~~in this state~~.

21           "~~(8) Ten dollars (\$10)~~ (7) One hundred dollars  
22 (\$100) to renew ~~the~~ registration as a massage therapy school.

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

1           "~~(10)~~(9) Seventy-five dollars (\$75) ~~to reactivate~~  
2 biennially to receive an inactive license.

3           "~~(11)~~(10) Twenty-five dollars (\$25) shall be added  
4 to all license fees not post-marked or received by the board  
5 before the expiration date of the license.

6           "~~(12)~~(11) Fifteen dollars (\$15) to verify a license.

7           "~~(13)~~(12) Ten dollars (\$10) for a duplicate license  
8 certificate or a name change on a license certificate. ~~The~~  
9 ~~board may issue a duplicate certificate only after receiving a~~  
10 ~~sworn letter from the massage therapist that the original~~  
11 ~~certificate was lost, stolen, or destroyed. The records of the~~  
12 ~~board shall reflect that a duplicate certificate was issued.~~

13           "(b) Fees assessed in subdivisions (1) to (5),  
14 inclusive, of subsection (a) may not be increased more than  
15 fifty dollars (\$50) per licensing period.

16           "~~(b)~~(c) Necessary administrative fees may be charged  
17 by the board, including, but not limited to, reasonable costs  
18 for copying, labels, and lists. Examination and license fees  
19 may be adjusted as the board shall deem appropriate.

20           "~~(c)~~(d) There is ~~hereby~~ established a separate  
21 special revenue trust fund in the State Treasury to be known  
22 as the Alabama Board of Massage Therapy Fund. All receipts  
23 collected by the board under ~~the provisions of~~ this chapter  
24 are to be deposited in this fund and used only to carry out  
25 the provisions of this chapter. ~~Such receipts~~ Receipts shall  
26 be disbursed only by warrant of the ~~state~~ Comptroller, upon  
27 itemized vouchers approved by the chair of the board; provided

1 that no funds shall be withdrawn except as budgeted and  
2 allotted according to ~~the provisions of~~ Sections 41-4-80 to  
3 41-4-96, inclusive, 41-19-1, and 41-19-12, as amended, and  
4 only in amounts as stipulated in the general appropriations  
5 bill or other appropriations bills.

6 "§34-43-15.

7 "(a) The board may suspend, or revoke, ~~or refuse to~~  
8 ~~issue or renew~~ a license ~~or~~ and impose a civil penalty after  
9 notice and opportunity for a hearing pursuant to the  
10 Administrative Procedure Act, upon proof of any of the  
11 following:

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

16 "(2) The licensee sold or bartered, or offered to  
17 sell or barter, or a license for a massage therapist or a massage  
18 therapy establishment.

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

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

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

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

3           "(7) The licensee uses controlled substances or  
4 habitually and excessively uses alcohol.

5           "(8) The licensee engaged in false, deceptive, or  
6 misleading advertising.

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

12           "(10) The licensee is practicing or offering to  
13 practice beyond the scope permitted by law or accepting and  
14 performing professional responsibilities which the licensee  
15 knows or has reason to know that he or she is not competent to  
16 perform.

17           "(11) The licensee is delegating professional  
18 responsibilities to a person when the licensee knows or has  
19 reason to know that the person is not qualified by training,  
20 experience, or licensure to perform such responsibilities.

21           "(12) The licensee is violating a lawful order of  
22 the board previously entered in a disciplinary hearing or is  
23 failing to comply with a lawfully issued subpoena of the  
24 board.

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

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

4           "(b) Any person who has been convicted of, or  
5 entered a plea of nolo contendere to, a crime or offense  
6 involving prostitution or other sexual offenses is ineligible  
7 to hold a license as a massage therapist for a period of at  
8 least three years after the entry of the conviction or plea.  
9 The board retains the right to revoke a license indefinitely  
10 if the licensee is proven guilty of a crime or of sexual  
11 misconduct. Reinstatement of licensure is contingent upon  
12 proof of weekly counseling by a licensed professional  
13 counselor.

14           "(c) Any person who has been convicted of, or  
15 entered a plea of nolo contendere to, an offense involving  
16 prostitution or any other type of sexual offense may not  
17 receive a license for a massage therapy establishment for a  
18 period of three years after the date of conviction or entry of  
19 the plea. The board shall revoke the establishment license of  
20 any establishment which the board determines is a sexually  
21 oriented business. The board may revoke an establishment  
22 license if a person is convicted of, or enters a plea of nolo  
23 contendere to, any crime involving prostitution or any other  
24 sexual offense against a client which occurred on the premises  
25 of the establishment.

26           "(d) (1) Upon finding a person, licensee, or  
27 establishment guilty of any violation governed by this

1 chapter, ~~performing massage therapy without having obtained a~~  
2 ~~license,~~ the board may do any of the following:

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

5 "b. Issue a cease and desist order.

6 "c. Petition the circuit court of the county where  
7 the act occurred to enforce the cease and desist order and  
8 collect the assessed fine.

9 "(2) Any person aggrieved by any adverse action of  
10 the board ~~must~~ shall appeal the action to the Circuit Court of  
11 Montgomery County in accordance with the Alabama  
12 Administrative Procedure Act.

13 "§34-43-17.

14 "Any person who violates this chapter shall be  
15 guilty of a Class C A misdemeanor.

16 "§34-43-20.

17 "(a) To be approved by the board, a massage therapy  
18 school shall meet the following requirements:

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

22 "(2) Provide documentation of a curriculum which  
23 includes a minimum number of required hours of instruction ~~in~~  
24 ~~the subjects~~ required pursuant to Section 34-43-9.

25 "(3) Register annually with the board by filing a  
26 renewal form accompanied with the renewal fee pursuant to

1 Section 34-43-14, and submit a current curriculum and a list  
2 of instructors.

3 "(b) Every instructor teaching course work ~~titled in~~  
4 massage ~~therapy~~ modalities at a board approved school located  
5 in Alabama shall be licensed in Alabama as a massage therapist  
6 and registered as a massage therapy instructor. Instructors  
7 who are not teaching massage therapy do not need to be  
8 registered. Any adjunct instructors shall be dually licensed  
9 in the state where they reside, be nationally certified, or  
10 both.

11 "(c) The board shall register as a massage therapy  
12 instructor any applicant who meets all of the following  
13 requirements:

14 "(1) Is currently licensed as a massage therapist in  
15 Alabama.

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

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

22 "§34-43-21.

23 "(a) Every massage therapist licensed pursuant to  
24 this chapter shall be required to complete 16 hours of  
25 continuing education as a condition for renewing his or her  
26 license. The continuing education courses shall be offered by  
27 providers approved by the board. The courses shall have been

1 completed within the 24 months preceding the date renewal is  
2 due. Hours in excess of the total number required may not be  
3 carried over to future renewals. The continuing education  
4 requirements shall not apply to a massage therapist within the  
5 biennium when the massage therapist is first licensed, but  
6 shall apply to licensees every biennium thereafter. The board  
7 may accept for compliance with the continuing education  
8 requirement any of the following:

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

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

17 "(3) Courses of study offered by registered massage  
18 therapy schools in Alabama, or by massage therapy instructors  
19 registered with the board, or by any national organization in  
20 the field of massage therapy or related touch therapy field.

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

24 "(1) Teaching a qualifying class, course, seminar,  
25 or workshop.

26 "(2) Publishing an article in the field relating to  
27 massage therapy.



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

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

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

4           "(6) Two hours of professional ethics.

5           "(c) Each of the areas listed in subsection (b) may  
6 be used for up to four hours of credit depending on the actual  
7 contact hours. One continuing education credit is defined as  
8 no less than 50 uninterrupted minutes of learning, except that  
9 publishing an article will automatically count for four hours.  
10 Continuing education credit may not be awarded for programs  
11 which do not relate to subjects listed in this section, or for  
12 repeated courses submitted the previous biennium, except for  
13 courses listed in subsection (b). The board may select, in a  
14 random manner, license renewal applications for audit of  
15 continuing education credit. Each licensee shall be  
16 responsible for maintaining in his or her personal files the  
17 certificates or records of credit from continuing education  
18 programs received from approved program providers. Each  
19 licensee selected for audit shall be required to produce  
20 documentation of attendance at those continuing education  
21 activities listed on his or her renewal application.

22           "~~(1) The board shall send to each licensee selected~~  
23 ~~for audit, a notice of audit.~~ The licensee shall provide  
24 satisfactory documentation of attendance at, or participation  
25 in, the approved continuing education programs listed in the  
26 renewal application.

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

3           "(d) (1) The board shall evaluate applications from  
4 all providers of continuing education programs, including  
5 massage therapy schools and instructors, in order to determine  
6 if approval shall be granted or denied.

7           "~~(1)~~ (2) The provider or licensee shall submit to the  
8 board an application on a form provided by the board. Only  
9 applications which are complete will be considered.

10           "~~(2) The provider or licensee shall submit a  
11 complete application to the board at least 60 days prior to  
12 the date on which the training event is to be given to gain  
13 approval before the program is presented.~~

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

19           Section 2. Although this bill would have as its  
20 purpose or effect the requirement of a new or increased  
21 expenditure of local funds, the bill is excluded from further  
22 requirements and application under Amendment 621, now  
23 appearing as Section 111.05 of the Official Recompilation of  
24 the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended, because the  
25 bill defines a new crime or amends the definition of an  
26 existing crime.

1                   Section 3. This act shall become effective on the  
2 first day of the third month following its passage and  
3 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.