

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 7 - 0 - 2
Yeas: Bonamici, Cannon, Flores, Kotek, Maurer, Richardson, Greenlick
Nays: 0
Exc.: Bruun, Gelser
Prepared By: Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 5/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Exempts practice of reflexology from regulation by the State Board of Massage Therapists.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History and practice of reflexology
- Regulation of reflexology as a business versus medical field
- Current massage therapist licensing requirements for reflexologists
- Appropriateness of the Board of Massage Therapists being the regulatory entity
- Review of other states and the American Massage Therapy Association's reflexology exemption policy
- Overview of massage therapy techniques versus reflexology

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Reflexology is the practice of stimulating points on the feet, hands and ears, in order to encourage a beneficial effect on other parts of the body. Reflexology is meant to restore balance to the body, in an effort to improve general health.

The Board of Massage Therapists regulates the practice of massage by licensing practitioners, establishing continuing education requirements, promoting education, administering tests to establish minimum competency to practice and enforcing professional behavior and standards. Currently, anyone wishing to practice reflexology in Oregon must be licensed by the Board of Massage Therapists. Minimum standards for licensure include 500 contact hours of certified classes in anatomy and physiology, kinesiology, pathology, hydrotherapy, theory and hands-on practice of massage and bodywork techniques and professional practices, including client communication and boundaries, professional and business ethics and sanitation. Currently, thirty-three states have exempted reflexology from state massage licensing requirements.