

REVENUE: No revenue impact
FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 6 - 1 - 1
Yeas: Cannon, Doherty, Parrish, Weidner, Greenlick, Thompson
Nays: Kennemer
Exc.: Hoyle
Prepared By: Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 4/29

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Exempts certain practitioners from regulation by Oregon Board of Massage Therapists (OBMT). Requires applicants for initial license as massage therapist to obtain approval of OBMT after board performs credentialing review to determine applicant's proficiency in massage therapy. Authorizes OBMT to adopt rules establishing required contact hours of classes in subjects including anatomy, physiology, kinesiology and pathology.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Alternative modalities
- Differences between massage therapy and alternative modalities
- Exempting alternative modalities from the OBMT
- Continued certification by professional organizations
- Pseudomatic treatment
- Concerns associated with consumer protection

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The Oregon Board of Massage Therapists (OBMT) regulates the practice of massage through licensing, establishing continuing education requirements, promoting education, administering tests to establish minimum competency to practice and enforcing professional behavior and standards.

Currently, practitioners of alternative modalities are subject to regulation by OBMT. The regulation requires alternative practitioners to meet massage therapy education requirements in addition to the education requirements required by the specific modalities' licensing organization.

Senate Bill 454-A exempts from OBMT regulation practitioners that: (1) do not claim to be massage therapists; (2) limit their work to enumerated practices; (3) are certified by a professional organization or credentialing agency; and, (4) provide contact information for the credentialing entity.