

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Fiscal statement issued

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**Action:** Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

**Vote:** 5 - 0 - 0

**Yeas:** Bates, Kruse, Morse, Shields, Monnes Anderson

**Nays:** 0

**Exc.:** 0

**Prepared By:** Brian Niebuurt, Administrator

**Meeting Dates:** 3/9, 3/28

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Exempts practitioners of alternative modalities from regulation by the State Board of Massage Therapists (Board). Stipulates that in order to be exempt from regulation, the practitioner must not claim expressly or implicitly to be a massage therapist. Stipulates that practitioners must also limit their work to: (a) using touch, words and directed movement to deepen the awareness of existing patterns of movement and suggest new patterns of movement; (b) using minimal touch over specific points on the body to facilitate balance in the nervous system; or, (c) using touch to affect the energy systems or channels of energy of the body. Requires the practitioner to be certified by a professional organization or credentialing agency that: (a) requires a minimum level of training, demonstration of competence and adherence to an approved scope of practice and ethical standards; and, (b) maintains disciplinary procedures. Requires contact information of the certifying organization or agency to be displayed in the practitioner's place of business. Allows the Board to verify an exempted practitioner's certification. Allows Board to review and approve classes completed by a massage therapist applicant and the applicant's professional experience, to determine the applicant's proficiency in the field of massage. Requires Board to adopt rules establishing the required hours for each subject in the contact hours requirement for licensure as a massage therapist.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Board support of amended bill
- Rise in number of new alternative modalities
- Differences between massage therapy and other modalities
- Burden of obtaining licensure as a massage therapist for practitioners of other modalities
- Consumer protection

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Modifies and expands requirements to be eligible for exemption from regulation by the Board. Allows Board to review and approve classes completed by a massage therapist applicant and the applicant's professional experience, to determine the applicant's proficiency in the field of massage. Makes mandatory rulemaking on required contact matters in subjects necessary for licensure as a massage therapist.

**BACKGROUND:** The Board 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 the Board. This regulation requires alternative practitioners to meet massage therapy education requirements in addition to the education requirements required by the modalities' licensing organization. SB 454-A would exempt from regulation by the Board practitioners who: (1) do not claim to be massage therapists; (2) limit their work to enumerated practices; (3) are certified by another professional organization or credentialing agency; and, (4) provide contact information for the credentialing entity.

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*This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.*