

REVENUE: No revenue impact
FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 8 - 1 - 0
Yeas: Clem, Conger, Harker, Kennemer, Keny-Guyer, Lively, Thompson, Greenlick
Nays: Weidner
Exc.: 0
Prepared By: Tyler Larson, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 5/1, 5/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires permit to operate massage facility. Requires State Board of Massage Therapists to oversee permitting of massage facilities. Imposes other prohibitions on and requirements for massage facilities. Exempts clinic or facility owned or operated by individuals licensed to practice by health professional board. Exempts individual practitioners practicing as individual massage therapist. Amends specific provisions relating to massage therapy. Operative on January 1, 2014. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Benefits of licensing in regulating massage facilities
- Current massage facilities involved with unlawful sex trade
- Importance of protecting integrity of massage therapy as professional medical practice
- Facilities fee and permitting process
- Qualifications and training of licensed massage therapists
- Similar regulations in other states

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The Oregon Board of Massage Therapists (OBMT) regulates and monitors the practice of massage therapy in Oregon. OBMT's role is to balance public safety and the needs of licensed massage therapists by developing, implementing, and maintaining the standards of professional conduct and practice.

The OBMT had authority to license massage facilities from 1955 through 1989. During the 1989 Legislative Session, OBMT had the language removed on the premise that massage facility inspections would be moved to a different state agency. Those facility inspection duties were never transferred. Currently, there is no massage facility oversight in Oregon.

Senate Bill 387-A allows OBMT to oversee permitting of massage facilities and provides a tool to enforce unregulated persons who facilitate unlawful practices from the facilities.