

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Business and Transportation

Fiscal: No Fiscal Impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/08/15

Action: Do Pass With Amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Meeting Dates: 04/08

Vote:

Yeas: 4 - Beyer, Girod, Monroe, Riley

Exc: 1 - Thomsen

Prepared By: James LaBar, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Adds bodywork to definition of massage. Modifies definition of massage to clarify that “Massage does not mean the practicing of any form of high velocity short amplitude manipulative thrusting procedures provided to the articulations of the spine or extremities.” Excludes community colleges and accredited colleges and universities from definition of “massage facility.” Modifies the certified hours for massage therapist from 500 to 625.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- National standards for massage therapists
- Physical therapist considerations

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Replaces original measure.

BACKGROUND:

The Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB) convened a national task force to review the minimum number of certified class hours to license massage therapists. The task force developed [The Core: Entry-Level Analysis Project Report](#) and recommended a national standard of 625 certified class hours in an attempt to allow the portability and reciprocity of a massage license.

Currently, the statutory requirement for licensure as a massage therapist in Oregon is 500 certified class hours. The Oregon Board of Massage Therapists finds that the FSMTB recommendation for the minimum certified class hours of 625 would offer licensees the possibility of portability and reciprocity. Senate Bill 298A amends ORS 687 to increase the education requirement from 500 to 625 hours, effective January 1, 2016.

Senate Bill 298A also statutorily exempts the student clinics at colleges and universities from obtaining a massage therapist facilities permit. This addresses an oversight from when legislation enacted in 2013 only exempted private career schools.