

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Health Care

Fiscal: No Fiscal Impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 05/29/15

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 05/13, 05/29

Vote:

Yeas: 6 - Clem, Greenlick, Kennemer, Keny-Guyer, Lively, Nosse

Nays: 3 - Buehler, Hayden, Weidner

Prepared By: Sandy Thiele-Cirka, 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 massage therapists certified class hours from 500 to 625.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Minimum core competency standards for massage therapists
- High velocity definition discussion
- Administrative Rule process versus legislation
- Concerns about not using Administrative Rule process

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB) convened a national task force to review the minimum number of certified class hours for licensed massage therapists. The task force issued *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 298-A amends ORS 687 to increase the education requirement from 500 to 625 class hours and exempts student clinics that are located at colleges and universities from obtaining a massage therapy facilities permit.