HOUSE BILL 2859

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2008 Regular Session

By Representatives Williams, Hinkle, Moeller, and Green

Read first time 01/17/08. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

AN ACT Relating to the regulation of massage therapy; amending RCW 18.108.070; and adding a new section to chapter 18.108 RCW.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.108.070 and 1991 c 3 s 257 are each amended to read 5 as follows:

6 The secretary shall issue a massage practitioner's license to an 7 applicant who demonstrates to the secretary's satisfaction that the 8 following requirements have been met:

9 (1) Effective June 1, 1988, successful completion of a course of 10 study in an approved massage program or approved apprenticeship 11 program;

12 (2) Successful completion of an examination administered or 13 approved by the board; ((and))

14 (3) <u>Completion of a number of hours of continuing education</u>
15 <u>courses, as determined and approved by the board, every two years; and</u>
16 <u>(4)</u> Be eighteen years of age or older.

17 In addition, applicants shall be subject to the grounds for denial 18 or issuance of a conditional license under chapter 18.130 RCW. 1 The secretary may require any information and documentation that 2 reasonably relates to the need to determine whether the applicant meets 3 the criteria for licensure provided for in this chapter and chapter 4 18.130 RCW. The secretary shall establish by rule what constitutes 5 adequate proof of meeting the criteria. The board shall give an 6 appropriate alternate form of examination for persons who cannot read 7 or speak English to determine equivalent competency.

8 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 18.108 RCW 9 to read as follows:

10 (1) The secretary must grant a massage practitioner an inactive 11 credential if the massage practitioner submits a letter to the board 12 stating his or her intent to obtain an inactive credential, and he or 13 she:

14 (a) Holds an active Washington state massage practitioner's 15 license;

16 17 (b) Is in good standing, as determined by the board; and

(c) Does not practice massage in the state of Washington.

18 (2) The secretary may reinstate the massage practitioner's license19 if the massage practitioner:

20 (a) Pays the current active renewal fee and other fees for active21 licensure;

22 (b) Provides a written declaration that:

(i) No action has been taken by a state or federal jurisdiction or hospital which would prevent or restrict the practitioner's practice of massage therapy;

26 (ii) He or she has not voluntarily given up any credential or 27 privilege or been restricted in the practice of massage therapy to 28 avoid other sanctions;

(iii) He or she has satisfied continuing education and competency requirements for the two most recent years; and

31 (c) Meets other requirements for reinstatement, as may be 32 determined by the board.

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