

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 6138

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As Passed Senate, February 7, 1996

**Title:** An act relating to license revocation of massage practitioners.

**Brief Description:** Deleting permissive language for reinstatement of revoked massage practitioner licenses.

**Sponsors:** Senator Kohl.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Health & Long-Term Care: 1/26/96, 1/31/96 [DP].  
Passed Senate, 2/7/96, 48-0.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG-TERM CARE

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators Quigley, Chair; Wojahn, Vice Chair; Deccio, Fairley, Franklin, Moyer, Thibaudeau, Winsley and Wood.

**Staff:** Rhoda Jones (786-7198)

**Background:** Last year legislation passed authorizing the Department of Health to automatically revoke the license of a massage practitioner who had been convicted of prostitution. Revocation under these circumstances could last eight years, unless the conviction was overturned or the licensee completed a prostitution prevention and intervention program.

**Summary of Bill:** Massage practitioners who lose their licenses because of a prostitution conviction are not given the option of participating in a prostitution prevention program as a means of getting their license reinstated.

The prostitution prevention program already in statute is maintained as a mechanism for changing behavior without enabling offenders who have lost their massage therapy licenses to opt for the program as a short cut to regaining their licenses.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** The massage therapy profession is not interested in having anyone convicted of prostitution able to do massage. Do not permit easy license reinstatement.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Testified:** PRO: Ron Weaver, DOH; Melanie Stewart, AMTA; Lori Belinski, AMTA; Lenny VanPelt, International Patient Advocacy.

**House Amendment(s):** Language in the existing statute was deleted, further clarifying that a convicted prostitute is ineligible for a license to practice massage for a period of eight years following the conviction.