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SENATE BILL 5718

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State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senators Thibaudeau and Deccio

Read first time 01/31/2001. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to certification of reflexologists; amending RCW  
2 18.108.010 and 18.108.020; adding new sections to chapter 18.108 RCW;  
3 and creating a new section.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.108.010 and 1997 c 297 s 2 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7 In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires, the  
8 following meanings shall apply:

9 (1) "Board" means the Washington state board of massage.

10 (2) "Massage" and "massage therapy" mean a health care service  
11 involving the external manipulation or pressure of soft tissue for  
12 therapeutic purposes. Massage therapy includes techniques such as  
13 tapping, compressions, friction, Swedish gymnastics or movements,  
14 gliding, kneading, shaking, and facial or connective tissue stretching,  
15 with or without the aids of superficial heat, cold, water, lubricants,  
16 or salts. Massage therapy does not include diagnosis or attempts to  
17 adjust or manipulate any articulations of the body or spine or  
18 mobilization of these articulations by the use of a thrusting force,  
19 nor does it include genital manipulation.

1 (3) "Massage practitioner" means an individual licensed under this  
2 chapter.

3 (4) "Secretary" means the secretary of health or the secretary's  
4 designee.

5 (5) "Massage business" means the operation of a business where  
6 massages are given.

7 (6) "Certified reflexologist" means a person certified to practice  
8 reflexology under this chapter.

9 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.108.020 and 1991 c 3 s 253 are each amended to read  
10 as follows:

11 The Washington state board of massage is hereby created. The board  
12 shall consist of (~~four~~) five members who shall be appointed by the  
13 governor for a term of four years each. Four members shall be  
14 residents of this state and shall have not less than three years  
15 experience in the practice of massage immediately preceding their  
16 appointment and shall be licensed under this chapter and actively  
17 engaged in the practice of massage during their incumbency. One member  
18 shall be a certified reflexologist who is engaged in the active  
19 practice of reflexology and who is a resident of the state.

20 In addition to the members specified in this section, the governor  
21 shall appoint a consumer member of the board, who shall serve for a  
22 term of four years. The consumer member of the board shall be an  
23 individual who does not derive his or her livelihood by providing  
24 health care services or massage therapy and is not a licensed health  
25 professional. The consumer member shall not be an employee of the  
26 state nor a present or former member of another licensing board.

27 In the event that a member cannot complete his or her term of  
28 office, another appointment shall be made by the governor in accordance  
29 with the procedures stated in this section to fill the remainder of the  
30 term. No member may serve more than two successive terms whether full  
31 or partial. The governor may remove any member of the board for  
32 neglect of duty, incompetence, or unprofessional or disorderly conduct  
33 as determined under chapter 18.130 RCW.

34 Each member of the board shall be compensated in accordance with  
35 RCW 43.03.240. Members shall be reimbursed for travel expenses  
36 incurred in the actual performance of their duties, as provided in RCW  
37 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

1       The board may annually elect a chairperson to direct the meetings  
2 of the board. The board shall meet as called by the chairperson or the  
3 secretary. Three members of the board shall constitute a quorum of the  
4 board.

5       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 3.** (1) No person may for a fee or as part of  
6 his or her position as an employee, proprietorship, or corporation  
7 practice reflexology without being certified under this chapter unless  
8 otherwise authorized by law in his or her professional scope of  
9 practice.

10       (2) The board shall establish initial certification standards for  
11 applicants for reflexology certification at a minimum of one hundred  
12 ninety hours of training by the effective date of this act. Beginning  
13 January 1, 2003, new applicants for certification must complete three  
14 hundred hours of training in reflexology as approved by the board or be  
15 certified by the association of reflexology certification board.

16       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 4.** The department shall establish a reflexology  
17 advisory committee consisting of three reflexologists who have been in  
18 practice for at least two years prior to the effective date of this  
19 act. Each member must have at least two hundred hours of reflexology  
20 training and be certified by the association of reflexology  
21 certification board.

22       The duties of the advisory committee include making recommendations  
23 to the massage board on the requirements and implementation of  
24 certification standards for certified reflexologists.

25       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 5.** The department of health shall review the  
26 implementation of this act and make recommendations to the legislature  
27 by December 1, 2004, regarding regulatory changes to this act.

28       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 6.** Sections 3 and 4 of this act are each added  
29 to chapter 18.108 RCW.

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