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HOUSE BILL 2781

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State of Washington                      64th Legislature                      2016 Regular Session

By Representatives Harris, Cody, Senn, and Moeller

Read first time 01/20/16. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1            AN ACT Relating to the board of massage; amending RCW 18.108.025,  
2 18.108.070, and 18.108.073; and adding a new section to chapter  
3 18.108 RCW.

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

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 18.108  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7            In order to recognize prior education that is applicable to  
8 licensure as a massage therapist or massage practitioner while  
9 protecting the public, the board shall adopt rules to allow massage  
10 programs that are approved by the board to establish transfer  
11 programs that accept an individual's credits or clock hours from  
12 schools that have not been approved by the board. "Prior education"  
13 must be defined to include but not be limited to, credits or clock  
14 hours from schools, colleges, and universities that are:

15            (1) Accredited by a national or regional accreditation  
16 organization;

17            (2) Approved by a state authority with responsibility for  
18 oversight of vocational programs; or

19            (3) Approved by a state agency that regulates massage programs  
20 and is a member of the federation of state massage therapy boards.

1       **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.108.025 and 2012 c 137 s 4 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       (1) In addition to any other authority provided by law, the board  
4 of massage may:

5       (a) Adopt rules in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW necessary to  
6 implement massage practitioner licensure under this chapter, subject  
7 to the approval of the secretary;

8       (b) Define, evaluate, approve, and designate those massage  
9 schools, massage programs, transfer programs, and massage  
10 apprenticeship programs including all current and proposed  
11 curriculum, faculty, and health, sanitation, and facility standards  
12 from which graduation will be accepted as proof of an applicant's  
13 eligibility to take the massage licensing examination;

14       (c) Review approved massage schools and programs periodically;

15       (d) Prepare, grade, administer, and supervise the grading and  
16 administration of, examinations for applicants for massage licensure;

17       (e) Establish and administer requirements for continuing  
18 education, which shall be a prerequisite to renewing a massage  
19 practitioner license under this chapter; and

20       (f) Determine which states have educational and licensing  
21 requirements for massage practitioners equivalent to those of this  
22 state.

23       (2) The board shall establish by rule the standards and  
24 procedures for approving courses of study in massage therapy and may  
25 contract with individuals or organizations having expertise in the  
26 profession or in education to assist in evaluating courses of study.  
27 The standards and procedures set shall apply equally to schools and  
28 training within the United States of America and those in foreign  
29 jurisdictions.

30       **Sec. 3.** RCW 18.108.070 and 2012 c 137 s 10 are each amended to  
31 read as follows:

32       (1) The secretary shall issue a massage practitioner's license to  
33 an applicant who demonstrates to the secretary's satisfaction that  
34 the following requirements have been met:

35       (a) Effective June 1, 1988, successful completion of a course of  
36 study in an approved massage program, transfer program, or approved  
37 apprenticeship program;

38       (b) Successful completion of an examination administered or  
39 approved by the board; and

1 (c) Be eighteen years of age or older.

2 (2) Beginning July 1, 2013, the secretary shall issue a  
3 reflexologist certification to an applicant who completes an  
4 application form that identifies the name and address of the  
5 applicant and the certification request, and demonstrates to the  
6 secretary's satisfaction that the following requirements have been  
7 met:

8 (a) Successful completion of a course of study in reflexologist  
9 program approved by the secretary;

10 (b) Successful completion of an examination administered or  
11 approved by the secretary; and

12 (c) Be eighteen years of age or older.

13 (3) Applicants for a massage practitioner's license or for  
14 certification as a reflexologist shall be subject to the grounds for  
15 denial or issuance of a conditional credential under chapter 18.130  
16 RCW.

17 (4) The secretary may require any information and documentation  
18 that reasonably relates to the need to determine whether the massage  
19 practitioner or reflexologist applicant meets the criteria for  
20 licensure provided for in this chapter and chapter 18.130 RCW. The  
21 secretary shall establish by rule what constitutes adequate proof of  
22 meeting the criteria.

23 **Sec. 4.** RCW 18.108.073 and 2012 c 137 s 11 are each amended to  
24 read as follows:

25 (1) Applicants for the massage practitioner license examination  
26 must demonstrate to the secretary's satisfaction that the following  
27 requirements have been met:

28 (a)(i) Effective June 1, 1988, successful completion of a course  
29 of study in an approved massage program or transfer program; or

30 (ii) Effective June 1, 1988, successful completion of an  
31 apprenticeship program established by the board; and

32 (b) Be eighteen years of age or older.

33 (2) The board or its designee shall examine each massage  
34 practitioner applicant in a written examination determined most  
35 effective on subjects appropriate to the massage scope of practice.  
36 The subjects may include anatomy, kinesiology, physiology, pathology,  
37 principles of human behavior, massage theory and practice,  
38 hydrotherapy, hygiene, first aid, Washington law pertaining to the  
39 practice of massage, and such other subjects as the board may deem

1 useful to test applicant's fitness to practice massage therapy. Such  
2 examinations shall be limited in purpose to determining whether the  
3 applicant possesses the minimum skill and knowledge necessary to  
4 practice competently.

5 (3) All records of a massage practitioner candidate's performance  
6 shall be preserved for a period of not less than one year after the  
7 board has made and published decisions thereupon. All examinations  
8 shall be conducted by the board under fair and impartial methods as  
9 determined by the secretary.

10 (4) A massage practitioner applicant who fails to make the  
11 required grade in the first examination is entitled to take up to two  
12 additional examinations upon the payment of a fee for each subsequent  
13 examination determined by the secretary as provided in RCW 43.70.250.  
14 Upon failure of three examinations, the secretary may invalidate the  
15 original application and require such remedial education as is  
16 required by the board before admission to future examinations.

17 (5) The board may approve an examination prepared or  
18 administered, or both, by a private testing agency or association of  
19 licensing boards for use by a massage practitioner applicant in  
20 meeting the licensing requirement.

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