

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1875**

Chapter 297, Laws of 1997

55th Legislature  
1997 Regular Session

UPDATING TERMINOLOGY RELATING TO MASSAGE PRACTITIONERS

EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/27/97

Passed by the House April 21, 1997  
Yeas 93 Nays 0

CLYDE BALLARD  
**Speaker of the  
House of Representatives**

Passed by the Senate April 11, 1997  
Yeas 42 Nays 0

BRAD OWEN  
**President of the Senate**

Approved May 9, 1997

GARY LOCKE  
**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Timothy A. Martin, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1875** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

TIMOTHY A. MARTIN  
**Chief Clerk**

FILED

May 9, 1997 - 1:44 p.m.

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1875**

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Passed Legislature - 1997 Regular Session

AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

**State of Washington**

**55th Legislature**

**1997 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Health Care (originally sponsored by Representatives Skinner, Carlson, Radcliff, Cody, Murray, Hatfield and O'Brien)

Read first time 03/05/97.

1       AN ACT Relating to updating terminology in chapter 18.108 RCW;  
2 amending RCW 18.108.005, 18.108.010, and 18.108.050; and creating a new  
3 section.

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

5       **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.108.005 and 1987 c 443 s 1 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7       The legislature finds it necessary to license the practice of  
8 massage and massage therapy in order to protect the public health and  
9 safety. It is the legislature's intent that only individuals who meet  
10 and maintain minimum standards of competence and conduct may provide  
11 services to the public. This chapter shall not be construed to require  
12 or prohibit individual or group policies or contracts of an insurance  
13 carrier, health care service contractor, or health maintenance  
14 organization from providing benefits or coverage for services and  
15 supplies provided by a person (~~registered or certified~~) licensed  
16 under this chapter.

17       **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.108.010 and 1991 c 3 s 252 are each amended to read  
18 as follows:

1 In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires, the  
2 following meanings shall apply:

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

4 (2) "Massage" and "massage therapy" mean a health care service  
5 involving the external manipulation or pressure of soft tissue for  
6 therapeutic purposes. Massage therapy includes ~~((massage))~~ techniques  
7 such as ~~((methods of effleurage, petrissage, tapotement,))~~ tapping,  
8 compressions, ~~((vibration,))~~ friction, ~~((nerve strokes, and))~~ Swedish  
9 gymnastics or movements ~~((either by manual means, as they relate to  
10 massage)),~~ gliding, kneading, shaking, and facial or connective tissue  
11 stretching, with or without the aids of superficial heat, cold, water,  
12 lubricants, or salts. Massage therapy does not include diagnosis or  
13 attempts to adjust or manipulate any articulations of the body or spine  
14 or mobilization of these articulations by the use of a thrusting force,  
15 nor does it include genital manipulation.

16 (3) "Massage practitioner" means an individual licensed under this  
17 chapter.

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

20 (5) Massage business means the operation of a business where  
21 massages are given.

22 **Sec. 3.** RCW 18.108.050 and 1995 c 198 s 16 are each amended to  
23 read as follows:

24 This chapter does not apply to:

25 (1) An individual giving massage to members of his or her immediate  
26 family;

27 (2) The practice of a profession by individuals who are licensed,  
28 certified, or registered under other laws of this state and who are  
29 performing services within their authorized scope of practice;

30 (3) Massage practiced at the athletic department of any institution  
31 maintained by the public funds of the state, or any of its political  
32 subdivisions;

33 (4) Massage practiced at the athletic department of any school or  
34 college approved by the department by rule using recognized national  
35 professional standards;

36 (5) Students enrolled in an approved massage school, approved  
37 program, or approved apprenticeship program, practicing massage  
38 techniques, incidental to the massage school or program and supervised

1 by the approved school or program. Students must identify themselves  
2 as a student when performing massage services on members of the public.  
3 Students may not be compensated for the massage services they provide;  
4 (6) Individuals who have completed a somatic education training  
5 program approved by the secretary.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The department of health shall monitor the  
7 effects, if any, on the public health and safety of the exemption  
8 provided in RCW 18.108.050(6). The department shall report to the  
9 appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 1999, any  
10 instances of somatic educators violating RCW 18.108.085(3) with  
11 recommendations, if any, for regulatory or statutory changes.

Passed the House April 21, 1997.

Passed the Senate April 11, 1997.

Approved by the Governor May 9, 1997.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 9, 1997.