

FINAL BILL REPORT

HB 1341

C 165 L 07

Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Limiting the regulation of the practice of massage by political subdivisions.

Sponsors: By Representatives Simpson, Curtis, Ericks and Alexander.

House Committee on Local Government

Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care

Background:

The practice of massage and massage therapy is regulated under state law. The regulation of massage practitioners includes the following:

- state licensing and examination requirements;
- restrictions on certain advertising practices; and
- disciplinary standards and procedures.

The regulation of massage practitioners is overseen by the Washington State Board of Massage (Board). The Board is authorized to adopt administrative rules pertaining to the regulation of the massage profession and is granted specified powers with respect to the:

- evaluation and approval of massage schools and training programs;
- administration of licensing examinations; and
- establishment of the rules, standards, and procedures regarding the training of practitioners.

The regulation of the massage profession is not exclusive to the state. State statute explicitly allows local governments to impose regulations, require local licenses, charge fees, and levy taxes.

Summary:

Statutory provisions authorizing local governments to license and regulate massage practitioners are repealed.

Votes on Final Passage:

House	90	0
Senate	48	0

Effective: July 22, 2007