
HOUSE BILL 1189

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Short, Cody, Schmick, and Kloba

Read first time 01/13/17. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to clarifying existing exemptions from the
2 massage therapy law; and amending RCW 18.108.050.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.108.050 and 2012 c 137 s 8 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 This chapter does not apply to:

7 (1) An individual giving massage or reflexology to members of his
8 or her immediate family;

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

12 (3) Massage or reflexology practiced at the athletic department
13 of:

14 (a) Any institution maintained by the public funds of the state,
15 or any of its political subdivisions;

16 (b) Any primary or secondary school or institution of higher
17 education;

18 (c) Any school or college approved by the department of health by
19 rule using recognized national professional standards; or

20 (d) Any nonprofit organization licensed under RCW 66.24.400 and
21 66.24.450;

1 (4) Students enrolled in an approved massage school, approved
2 program, or approved apprenticeship program, practicing massage
3 techniques, incidental to the massage school or program and
4 supervised by the approved school or program. Students must identify
5 themselves as a student when performing massage services on members
6 of the public. Students may not be compensated for the massage
7 services they provide;

8 (5) Students enrolled in an approved reflexology school, approved
9 program, or approved apprenticeship program, practicing reflexology
10 techniques, incidental to the reflexologist school or program and
11 supervised by the approved school or program. Students must identify
12 themselves as a student when performing reflexology services on
13 members of the public. Students may not be compensated for the
14 reflexology services they provide; or

15 (6)(a) Individuals who have completed a somatic education
16 training program approved by the secretary.

17 (b) For purposes of this subsection (6), "somatic education"
18 means: Using touch, words, and directed movement to deepen awareness
19 of existing patterns of movement and suggest new possibilities of
20 movement; using minimal touch over specific points of the body to
21 facilitate balance in the nervous system; and using touch to affect
22 the energy systems or channels of energy of the body. It includes,
23 but is not limited to, the practice of ortho-bionomy, the Feldenkrais
24 method of somatic education, the Trager approach, the Bowen
25 technique, and polarity therapy.

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