

**ASSEMBLY, No. 3469**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**216th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED JUNE 26, 2014

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman ANGELICA M. JIMENEZ**

**District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)**

**Assemblyman CHARLES MAINOR**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Revises licensing requirements and procedures under the “Massage and Bodywork Therapist Licensing Act.”

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning massage and bodywork therapy and amending  
2 P.L.2007, c.337 and P.L1999, c.19.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. Section 13 of P.L.2007, c.337 (C.45:11-68) is amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 13. Nothing in the “Massage and Bodywork Therapist Licensing  
10 Act,” P.L.1999, c.19 (C.45:11-53 et seq.), shall be construed to  
11 prohibit:

12 a. **Nothing in this amendatory and supplementary act shall be**  
13 **construed to prohibit any** Any person licensed to practice in this  
14 State under any other law from engaging in or using titles consistent  
15 with the practice for which he is licensed or to prohibit any student  
16 enrolled in a program of massage and bodywork therapies  
17 recognized by the board from performing massage and bodywork  
18 therapies which are necessary to his course of study.

19 b. **Nothing in this amendatory and supplementary act shall be**  
20 **construed to prohibit any** Any person from performing massage  
21 and bodywork therapies in this State, if those therapies are  
22 performed for no more than 45 days in a calendar year and for no  
23 more than 30 days in any 60-consecutive day period and provided  
24 that the person is duly licensed, certified or registered to practice  
25 massage and bodywork therapy in another state or the District of  
26 Columbia.

27 c. **Nothing in this amendatory and supplementary act shall be**  
28 **construed to prohibit any** Any person from engaging in the  
29 manipulation of soft tissue of the human body contained on hands,  
30 feet or ears, provided that the client does not remove any clothing  
31 other than shoes or socks.

32 d. **Nothing in this amendatory and supplementary act shall be**  
33 **construed to prohibit any** Any teacher from demonstrating  
34 massage and bodywork techniques while teaching a class or  
35 workshop if the individual is duly licensed by another state or  
36 possession of the United States or the District of Columbia to  
37 practice massage and bodywork therapies if that state or district of  
38 residence requires such licensure for an individual to practice  
39 massage and bodywork therapies.

40 e. **Nothing in this amendatory and supplementary act shall be**  
41 **construed to prohibit any** Any person from using touch, words and  
42 directed movement to deepen awareness of existing patterns of  
43 movement in the body, or to suggest new possibilities of movement  
44 provided that these services are not designated or implied to be

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 massage and bodywork therapy and the client is fully clothed.  
2 f. Any person from practicing techniques that involve  
3 structured touch or resting hands on the surface of the client's body  
4 to affect energy fields of the body, without delivering pressure or  
5 manipulating soft tissue, while the client is fully clothed.  
6 (cf: P.L.2007, c.337, s.13)

7  
8 2. Section 8 of P.L.1999, c.19 (C.45:11-60) is amended to read  
9 as follows:

10 8. To be eligible for licensure as a massage and bodywork  
11 therapist, an applicant shall be of good moral character and submit  
12 to the board satisfactory evidence of:

13 a. Successful completion of a minimum of 500 hours in class  
14 study in the field of massage and bodywork therapies approved by  
15 the board; **【or】 and**

16 b. Successful completion of a written examination approved by  
17 the board, which shall consider relevant education, training and  
18 practical work experience, to determine the applicant's competence  
19 to practice massage and bodywork therapies. **【The successful**  
20 **completion of any such examination may have been accomplished**  
21 **before the effective date of this act.】**

22 (cf: P.L.2007, c.337, s.6)

23  
24 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

25  
26  
27 STATEMENT

28  
29 This bill exempts certain persons from the provisions of the  
30 "Massage and Bodywork Therapist Licensing Act" and provides  
31 that applicants for licensure under that act must complete both class  
32 study and examination requirements.

33 This bill exempts from the provisions of the "Massage and  
34 Bodywork Therapist Licensing Act" persons practicing techniques  
35 involving structured touch or resting hands on the surface of a  
36 client's body to affect energy fields of the body, without delivering  
37 pressure or manipulating soft tissue, while the client is fully  
38 clothed.

39 Additionally, this bill provides that, to be eligible for licensure as  
40 a massage and bodywork therapist, an applicant must complete a  
41 minimum of 500 hours in class study in the field of massage and  
42 bodywork therapies and complete a written examination. Under  
43 current law, an applicant must either complete a minimum of 500  
44 hours in class study in the field of massage and bodywork therapies  
45 or complete a written examination.