

SENATE, No. 1608

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 27, 2014

Sponsored by:

Senator ANTHONY R. BUCCO

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

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:

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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
45 massage and bodywork therapy and the client is fully clothed.

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 f. Any person from practicing techniques that involve
2 structured touch or resting hands on the surface of the client's body
3 to affect energy fields of the body, without delivering pressure or
4 manipulating soft tissue, while the client is fully clothed.

5 (cf: P.L.2007, c.337, s.13)

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

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

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

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

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

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23 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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

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

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