

Introduced by

Industry, Business and Labor Committee

(At the request of the State Board of Massage)

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 43-25-02 and 43-25-05, subsection 3 of
2 section 43-25-05.1, and sections 43-25-07, 43-25-08, 43-25-09, 43-25-13, and 43-25-18 of the
3 North Dakota Century Code, relating to the licensing and regulation of massage therapy.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-25-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **43-25-02. Definitions.**

- 8 1. "Board" means the North Dakota board of massage therapy.
- 9 2. a. "Massage" means the ~~scientific and systematic manipulation of the soft tissues of~~
10 ~~the human body through any manual or mechanical means, using western and~~
11 ~~eastern modalities, including superficial hot and cold applications, hydrotherapy,~~
12 ~~reflexology, shiatsu, acupressure, and the use of salts or lubricants for the~~
13 ~~purpose of promoting, maintaining, and restoring the health and well-being of the~~
14 ~~client. The term includes assessment, effleurage (stroking or gliding), petrissage~~
15 ~~(kneading), tapotement (percussion), compression, vibration, friction, and active~~
16 ~~or passive range of motion and stretching either by hand, forearm, elbow, knee,~~
17 ~~foot, or with mechanical appliances for the purpose of body massage~~
18 practice of
19 massage therapy by the manual application of a system of structured touch to the
20 soft tissues of the human body, including:
- 21 (1) Assessment, evaluation, or treatment;
- 22 (2) Pressure, friction, stroking, rocking, gliding, kneading, percussion, or
23 vibration;
- 24 (3) Active or passive stretching of the body within the normal anatomical range
of movement;

1 (4) Use of manual methods or mechanical or electrical devices or tools that
2 mimic or enhance the action of human hands;

3 (5) Use of topical applications such as lubricants, scrubs, or herbal
4 preparations; and

5 (6) Use of hot or cold applications.

6 b. Except as provided in this chapter, "massage" does not include diagnosis or
7 other services that require a license to practice medicine or surgery, osteopathic
8 medicine, chiropractic, occupational therapy, physical therapy, or podiatry and
9 does not include service provided by professionals who act under their
10 state-issued professional license, certification, or registration.

11 3. "Massage establishment" means any place of business in which massage is practiced.

12 4. "Massage therapist" means an individual ~~who practices~~licensed to practice massage.

13 5. "Remote education" means asynchronous education that is not in person, live, or
14 presented in real time.

15 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-25-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is
16 amended and reenacted as follows:

17 **43-25-05. Board of massage therapy - Terms.**

18 1. The governor shall appoint a board of massage, to consist of five members.

19 a. Three members of the board must be massage therapists who are licensed in
20 this state and annually work at least five hundred hours practicing massage in
21 this state and have done so for at least the previous three years. These members
22 must be appointed for terms of three years, staggered so that the term of one
23 member expires each year.

24 b. One member of the board must be a consumer member. To qualify as a
25 consumer member an individual may not be or have been a massage therapist,
26 may not have an immediate family member who is a massage therapist, may not
27 be an owner of or have any affiliation with a massage school, may not be a
28 current or past member of any other health care licensing entity, may not have a
29 fiduciary obligation to a facility rendering health care services, may not have a
30 financial interest in the rendering of health care services, and may not have a
31 direct and substantial financial interest in massage therapy. This member must

- 1 be appointed for a two-year term, staggered so that the term expires with a
2 licensed board member but not with the instructor board member.
- 3 c. One member of the board must be ~~an~~ a current or former massage therapy
4 instructor at a school of a massage therapy program that meets the standards set
5 by the board. This member must be appointed for a term of two years, staggered
6 so that the term expires with a licensed board member but not with the consumer
7 board member.
- 8 d. Each member of the board holds office until that member's successor is
9 appointed and qualified. Any member appointed to a term beginning after
10 June 30, 2013, may only serve for a total of six consecutive years, after which
11 that member may not be reappointed unless a period of ~~two~~three years has
12 passed since that member last served on the board.
- 13 2. Within one month after appointment of a new member, the board shall meet at some
14 convenient place within the state and shall annually elect a president, vice president,
15 secretary, and ~~secretary-treasurer~~treasurer. The ~~secretary-treasurer~~treasurer must be
16 bonded in the sum of ~~one~~ at least fifty thousand dollars for the faithful discharge of the
17 ~~secretary-treasurer's~~treasurer's duties.
- 18 3. Each member of the board must be a citizen of North Dakota and the United States.

19 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 3 of section 43-25-05.1 of the North Dakota
20 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 21 3. The ~~secretary-treasurer~~board shall prepare and submit to the governor a biennial
22 report detailing income and expenses and a list of licensed massage therapists.

23 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-25-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is
24 amended and reenacted as follows:

25 **43-25-07. Requisites for licensure and examination - Subjects - Minimum passing**
26 **grade - Fee for re-examination.**

- 27 1. Any person who is eighteen years of age or more and of good moral character and
28 temperate habits is entitled to apply to the board. An applicant may receive a license
29 from the board as a massage therapist if the applicant:
- 30 a. Presents a diploma or credentials issued by ~~a school of~~ an approved massage
31 therapy education program that meets the standards set by the board;

- 1 b. ~~Passes~~Receives a passing score on an examination ~~conducted or~~ approved by
2 the board; and
- 3 c. Pays the required fees, which must accompany the application to the board.
- 4 2. Any applicant failing to obtain licensure within ~~six months~~one year of the initial license
5 or relicense application is entitled to reapply within six months after notification that the
6 application was rejected, upon payment of a fee of fifty dollars or a lesser amount
7 established by the board. Two applications exhaust the privilege under the original
8 application.
- 9 3. Conviction of an offense does not disqualify a person from licensure under this chapter
10 unless the board determines the offense has a direct bearing upon a person's ability to
11 serve the public as a massage therapist or the person is not sufficiently rehabilitated
12 under section 12.1-33-02.1.
- 13 4. The board may approve alternate educational methods or methodology for applicants
14 to complete educational requirements if the applicant has graduated from a school of
15 massage that is accredited by a national or regional accrediting agency recognized by
16 the United States department of education.

17 **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-25-08 of the North Dakota Century Code is
18 amended and reenacted as follows:

19 **43-25-08. Fee for license.**

20 The application fee to receive a license as a massage therapist is one hundred fifty dollars
21 or a lesser amount established by the board.

22 **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-25-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is
23 amended and reenacted as follows:

24 **43-25-09. License - Display - Renewal - Renewal fee.**

- 25 1. Each license must be conspicuously displayed at the place of practice.
- 26 2. ~~On or before January first of each year, each licensed massage therapist shall pay to~~
27 ~~the secretary-treasurer of the board a renewal fee of one hundred dollars or a lesser~~
28 ~~amount established by the board.~~
- 29 3. ~~Continuing education of at least twenty-four~~Twenty-fourExcept as otherwise provided
30 under this subsection, twenty-four hours of continuing education ~~hours~~, or equivalent
31 college credits, submitted every two years is ~~a further requirement~~required for renewal

1 of the license. Of the twenty-four hours, twelve hours must be classroom, hands-on
2 hours. For the first renewal after becoming licensed in this state, a minimum of three
3 hours of the required twenty-four hours must be ethics education. If an applicant for
4 renewal is in good standing and has been actively practicing massage for the fifteen
5 years immediately preceding the renewal, six hours of continuing education, or
6 equivalent college credits, submitted every two years is required for renewal of the
7 license. If an applicant for renewal is in good standing and has been actively practicing
8 massage for the twenty-five years immediately preceding the renewal, three hours of
9 continuing education, or equivalent college credits, submitted every two years is
10 required for renewal of the license. The board may accept continuing education
11 attained by remote means. No more than ~~nineteen~~ hours of a licensee's renewal hours
12 may be by remote means. To qualify as continuing education, the remote education
13 must be board-approved for content and suitability as defined in this chapter.

14 a. ~~Odd-numbered licensed individuals~~ Licensees with odd-numbered licenses shall
15 report required continuing education ~~in~~ on or before February twenty-eighth of
16 each ~~odd-numbered years and even-numbered licensed individuals shall report~~
17 ~~continuing education in even-numbered years, based on the calendar year and~~
18 pay a required renewal fee of two hundred dollars or a lesser amount established
19 by the board.

20 b. Licensees with even-numbered licenses shall report required continuing
21 education on or before February twenty-eighth of each even-numbered year and
22 pay a required renewal fee of two hundred dollars or a lesser amount established
23 by the board.

24 ~~b.c.~~ Licensed individuals during their initial licensure period are not required to report
25 hours of continuing education. Thereafter, the licensees shall report continuing
26 education pursuant to ~~subdivisions~~ subdivisions a and b.

27 ~~e.d.~~ The board may grant an individual waiver based on health issues or other good
28 cause deemed sufficient by the board.

29 4.3. If the board reasonably believes a massage therapist or applicant has a physical or
30 mental condition jeopardizing the health of those who seek relief massage from the
31 individual, the board may require the individual to have an appropriate examination by

1 a qualified examiner approved by the board. If the individual has had or has any
2 communicable disease deemed sufficient to disqualify the applicant to practice
3 massage in the state, the board shall deny a license until the individual furnishes due
4 proof of being physically and mentally competent and sound.

5 ~~5.4.~~ A holder of an expired license may within ~~one year~~two years from the date of its
6 expiration have the license renewed upon payment of the required renewal fee. The
7 board may require ~~production of~~ a new certificate of physical examination and
8 evidence of completion of any required continued educational hours ~~being completed~~.

9 ~~6.5.~~ All licenseholders must be designated as licensed massage therapists and may not
10 use any title or abbreviation without the designation "massage therapist".

11 6. An applicant with training and credentials outside of the United States must submit at
12 the applicant's own expense qualifications, credentials, and work experience to one of
13 the following credentialing agencies for review:

14 a. International education research foundation;

15 b. International consultants of Delaware, inc.; or

16 c. A credentialing agency approved by the board.

17 7. Failure to have a review completed by a credentialing agency under subsection 6 and
18 the massage therapy application procedures indemnified by the board may result in
19 the board denying the application. The board may accept or refuse any
20 recommendation made by the credentialing agency.

21 **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-25-13 of the North Dakota Century Code is
22 amended and reenacted as follows:

23 **43-25-13. Records to be kept by the ~~secretary-treasurer of the board.~~**

24 ~~The secretary-treasurer of the board shall keep a record of the names of all persons to~~
25 ~~whom licenses have been granted under this chapter, the license number of each, the date of~~
26 ~~granting each license and renewal, and other matters of record~~board may implement rules for
27 record retention. Licensee information is retained by the board from the date a license is
28 granted until five years after inactive status. Any official entry or a certificate of the absence of
29 information, certified under the hand of the ~~secretary-treasurer~~secretary and the seal of the
30 board, must be admitted as evidence in any of the courts of this state. The

1 ~~secretary-treasurer~~secretary shall furnish to any person a certified copy of any record upon
2 payment of a fee of ten dollars plus twenty-five cents per page copied.

3 **SECTION 8. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-25-18 of the North Dakota Century Code is
4 amended and reenacted as follows:

5 **43-25-18. Reciprocity.**

- 6 1. Any individual who has been duly licensed ~~and is in good standing in another state,~~
7 territory, or jurisdiction of the United States, to practice massage ~~in a state that meets~~
8 ~~required educational hours and requirements in this state, and who has been lawfully~~
9 ~~and continuously engaged in licensed practice for two years or more immediately~~
10 ~~before filing of an application to practice in this state, and who submits to the board a~~
11 ~~duly attested certificate from the examining board of the state in which licensed,~~
12 ~~certifying to the fact of licensure and being of good moral character and of professional~~
13 ~~attainments, may upon paying a fee of one hundred fifty dollars or a lesser fee set by~~
14 ~~the board be granted a license to practice in this state without being required to take~~
15 ~~an examination:~~
- 16 2. ~~An applicant for licensure by reciprocity who has been duly licensed and is in good~~
17 ~~standing to practice massage in a state with substantially similar licensure standards~~
18 ~~as determined by the board and who has been lawfully and continuously engaged in~~
19 ~~licensed practice for five years or more immediately before filing of an application to~~
20 ~~practice in this state, may be granted a license by the board without being required to~~
21 ~~take an examination if the applicant otherwise meets all of the requirements of~~
22 ~~subsection 1., if the applicant provides evidence satisfactory to the board the~~
23 applicant:
- 24 a. Is licensed in good standing in any other state, territory, or jurisdiction of the
25 United States;
- 26 b. Actively practiced for at least two of the last three years;
- 27 c. Graduated from a school of massage or massage therapy program approved by
28 the board which may be proven by presentation of a diploma or credentials;
- 29 d. Passed an examination acceptable to the board;

- 1 e. A massage license granted to the applicant in any other state, territory, or
- 2 jurisdiction is not subject to suspension, revocation, or otherwise restricted in any
- 3 manner for disciplinary purposes; and
- 4 2. To qualify for licensure under this section, an applicant shall submit to a statewide and
- 5 nationwide criminal history record check as required by section 43-25-08.1.