

1 **State of Arkansas**
2 **79th General Assembly**
3 **Regular Session, 1993**
4 **By: Representative Roberts**

A Bill

HOUSE BILL

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE 23-79-114 TO INSURE THAT
9 MESSAGE THERAPISTS RECEIVE EQUAL PAYMENT FOR SERVICE; AND
10 FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Subtitle

13 "TO INSURE THAT MESSAGE THERAPISTS RECEIVE EQUAL PAYMENT
14 FOR SERVICES."

16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

18 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code 23-79-114 is amended by adding the following
19 section:

20 "(f) Notwithstanding any provision of any individual or group policy of
21 accident and health insurance or any provision of a policy, contract, plan, or
22 agreement for hospital or medical service or indemnity, in cases where the
23 policy, contract, plan, or agreement provides for payment or reimbursement for
24 any services consisting of the application of massage therapies provided by
25 persons licensed under the Arkansas Medical Practices Act, § 17-93-201, et
26 seq., or under the Arkansas Physical Therapy Act, § 17-92-101, et seq., the
27 person entitled to benefits or person performing services under such policy,
28 contract, plan, or agreement is entitled to payment or reimbursement on an
29 equal basis for the service when the service is performed by any person
30 registered under §§ 17-98-101 - 17-98-312.

31 (1) No person entitled to benefits under this subsection shall be denied
32 freedom of choice of any practitioner registered under §§ 17-98-101 -
33 17-98-312 by any insurer or agent or employee of the insurer or by any
34 department, agency, or employee of this state.

35 (2) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to enlarge or diminish

1 the practice of massage therapy as defined by law in §§ 17-98-101 - 17-98-312.

2 (3) The purpose of this subsection is to insure that persons registered
3 under the Arkansas Massage Therapy Act, §§ 17-98-101 - 17-98-312, shall be
4 entitled to payment or reimbursement on an equal basis for service in the area
5 of massage therapy."

6

7 SECTION 2. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature
8 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
9 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

10

11 SECTION 3. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
12 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
13 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
14 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
15 act are declared to be severable.

16

17 SECTION 4. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
18 hereby repealed.

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

