

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1215

5 By: Representative Love
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For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAWS REGARDING THE PRACTICE OF
9 MASSAGE THERAPY TO INCLUDE THE PRACTICE OF CUPPING;
10 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
11

Subtitle

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13 TO AMEND THE LAWS REGARDING THE PRACTICE
14 OF MASSAGE THERAPY TO INCLUDE THE
15 PRACTICE OF CUPPING.
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-86-102(3), concerning the definition of
22 "massage therapy" within the Massage Therapy Act, is amended to read as
23 follows:

24 (3)(A) "Massage therapy" means the treatment of soft tissues,
25 which may include skin, fascia, and muscles and their dysfunctions for
26 therapeutic purposes of establishing and maintaining good physical condition,
27 comfort, and relief of pain.

28 (B) "Massage therapy" is a healthcare service that
29 includes gliding, kneading, percussion, compression, vibration, friction,
30 nerve strokes, and stretching the tissue.

31 (C) "Massage therapy" also means to engage in the practice
32 of any of the following procedures:

33 (i) Massage therapy techniques and procedures,
34 either hands-on or with mechanical devices;

35 (ii) Therapeutic application and use of oils, herbal
36 or chemical preparations, lubricants, nonprescription creams, lotions,



1 scrubs, powders, and other spa services;

2 (iii) Therapeutic application of hot or cold packs;

3 (iv) Hydrotherapy techniques;

4 (v) Heliotherapy, which may include mechanical
5 devices, heat lamps, and other devices;

6 (vi) Electrotherapy; ~~and~~

7 (vii) Any hands-on bodywork techniques and
8 procedures rising to the level of the techniques and procedures intended to
9 be regulated under this chapter and not covered under specific licensing laws
10 of other boards; and

11 (viii) Cupping therapy.

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13 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 17-102-311 is amended to read as follows:
14 17-102-311. Exemptions.

15 (a) Nothing in this This chapter ~~is intended to~~ does not limit,
16 interfere with, or prevent any other class of licensed ~~health-care~~ healthcare
17 professionals from practicing acupuncture and related techniques when
18 permitted by its state licensing board.

19 (b) However, a chiropractic physician ~~shall be entitled to~~ may
20 practice acupuncture as part of chiropractic practice after completing an
21 educational program in acupuncture from a college accredited by the Council
22 on Chiropractic Education.

23 (c) A massage therapist may practice cupping therapy as part of
24 massage therapy after completing an educational program in cupping therapy.