

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2015-190

2
3 REQUESTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND
4 LABOR STUDY THE PARAMETERS OF TECHNIQUES FOR MASSAGE THERAPY AND
5 CONSIDER DEFINING OR USING DISTINCTIVE LANGUAGE FOR THE
6 TECHNIQUES EMPLOYED BY MASSAGE THERAPISTS.
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8 WHEREAS, massage therapy plays a very important role in the health and
9 wellness of the citizens of Arkansas as a practice that provides widely
10 available and affordable massage therapy treatments and services throughout
11 the state; and
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13 WHEREAS, under Arkansas Code § 17-86-102(3)(C)(vii), the practice of
14 massage therapy includes "any hands-on bodywork techniques and procedures
15 rising to the level of the techniques and procedures intended to be regulated
16 under this chapter and not covered under specific licensing laws of other
17 boards"; and
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19 WHEREAS, almost all of the current methods used in the practice of
20 massage therapy are specifically covered by healthcare professional licensing
21 boards; and
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23 WHEREAS, the practice of physical therapy includes "manual therapy
24 techniques, including soft tissue massage, manual traction, connective tissue
25 massage, therapeutic massage, and mobilization, i.e. passive movement
26 accomplished within normal range of motion of the joint, but excluding spinal
27 manipulation and adjustment"; and
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29 WHEREAS, the law in its current form creates a contradiction within the
30 standards of practices of manual massage bodywork; and
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32 WHEREAS, healthcare professional licensing boards within the state have
33 used distinctive language in either administrative rules or statutes to
34 practice define techniques, procedures, and methods for different goals and
35 different needs of the public; and
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1 WHEREAS, in order to avoid inconsistencies within the law, the General
2 Assembly should pursue efforts to clarify the law regarding the parameters of
3 techniques employed by massage therapists,
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5 NOW THEREFORE,

6 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR OF
7 THE NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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9 THAT the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor study the
10 parameters of techniques for massage therapy and consider defining or using
11 distinctive language for the techniques employed by massage therapists.
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13 Respectfully submitted,
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17 Representative Fredrick J. Love
18 District 29
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21 By: JMB/JMB
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