

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 453 (SB 221)

2025 Regular Session

Mizell

Existing law provides for the licensure and regulation of the practice of massage therapy.

Existing law requires the La. Board of Massage Therapy (board) to develop a process to review all complaints made to the board.

New law retains existing law and requires the board to conduct an unannounced, in-person inspection by the board of all complaints alleging illicit activity at a massage establishment, within 10 days of receiving the complaint.

Existing law allows the board to adopt rules that are related to preventing fraud, abuse, human trafficking, or other criminal activity.

Existing law requires the board to receive a criminal background check for any person who is licensed or is applying to be licensed with the board.

New law retains existing law and requires the board to receive a criminal background check for any person who is applying for a massage establishment license with the board.

New law prohibits a massage establishment from being used as a living or sleeping quarter, unless the establishment is located in a zone designated for residential use under a local ordinance.

Prior law allowed the board to require any renewing applicants, licensed prior to April 1, 2022, to submit to a state and federal background check.

New law requires all renewing applicants who have not previously submitted to a state and federal background check prior to licensing renewal to submit to a state and federal background check.

Existing law provides that a violation of existing law is punishable by a fine of no more than \$1,000 or up to six months in jail, or both. Further provides that upon conviction, the owner or operator of the massage establishment is barred from obtaining a massage therapist or establishment license for up to five years.

New law retains existing law and further provides that if any owner, manager, or supervisor of a massage establishment violates existing law in connection with the operation of the massage establishment, the establishment license will be revoked by the board.

New law provides that after an establishment license is revoked, no occupational license, permit, or massage establishment license shall be reissued for the same premises by either the board or a local governing authority.

New law requires the board to submit an annual report to the legislature no later than March 1st of each year with the following information:

- (1) The total number of complaints received.
- (2) A summary of each complaint received including the nature of the violation.
- (3) A summary of complaints involving repeat offenders.
- (4) The total number of all inspections conducted during the preceding calendar year.
- (5) The total number of active licenses of both individual massage therapist and massage establishments and the number of new licenses, renewals, suspensions, and revocations.

New law provides for each complaint investigated and resolved, the report shall include:

- (1) A description of the outcome or resolution of each complaint.

- (2) Whether the complaint resulted in the issuance of a warning or cease and desist order, imposition of a fine, suspension or revocation of an individual or massage establishment license, referral to law enforcement, or any other action.
- (3) Name and title of the board member or investigator assigned to handle the complaint, as well as the date the complaint was filed and the date the investigation commenced and was resolved.
- (4) Any administrative or legal action arising out of a complaint.

Effective August 1, 2025.

(Amends R.S. 37:3555(A)(11) and (14)(a) and 3561(A); adds R.S.37:3553(D), 3558(E), 3565(C) and 3569)