
DIGEST

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HB No. 923

Abstract: Makes changes to the La. Massage Therapists and Massage Establishment Act.

Present law provides for definitions.

Proposed law amends the definitions of "massage establishment", "massage therapist", and "massage therapy" and adds definitions for "advertise", "inactive status", "lapsed license", "licensee", "person", "professional massage therapy association", and "writing".

Present law provides for the applicability of the La. Massage Therapists and Massage Establishment Act.

Proposed law retains present law and adds a list of persons who are exempt.

Present law establishes the La. Board of Massage Therapists.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides for the qualifications, terms, vacancies, officers, reimbursement, and liability of the members of the board.

Proposed law retains present law and allows bodyworks associations and other interested sources or individuals to submit a list of nominees for membership on the board. Proposed law also makes technical changes and repeals outdated provisions.

Present law provides for compensation for the members of the board.

Proposed law retains present law and requires at least three hours of board business be attended to receive the per diem.

Present law provides for the powers and duties of the board.

Proposed law specifies the duties of the board in regulating the practice of massage and bodywork in Louisiana.

Present law requires a person engaging in the practice of massage therapy to be licensed by the board as a massage therapist.

Proposed law retains present law and sets forth criteria that must be met by an applicant for licensure.

Present law provides for the examination of applicants to be massage therapists.

Proposed law provides that the timing and location of examinations for applicants, along with the scope, form, and content of the examination, shall be determined by administrative rules adopted by the board.

Present law provides for massage establishments.

Proposed law requires massage establishments to be licensed by the board.

Present law provides for applications for licensure by the board.

Proposed law sets forth the requirements for the display of licenses, name or location changes on licenses, the use of licenses, and the surrender of licenses.

Present law provides for the renewal and reinstatement of licenses and the continuing education requirements that must be met prior to renewal of a license.

Proposed law provides for the expiration and renewal of licenses, the renewal and reinstatement of expired licenses, and allows a licensee to adopt inactive status.

Present law sets forth the causes for the suspension of, revocation of, or refusal to renew or issue a license.

Proposed law sets forth the grounds for and methods of discipline of a licensee by the board.

Present law provides for penalties.

Proposed law provides that violations of proposed law are misdemeanors punishable by a fine or jail time.

Present law provides for injunctions.

Proposed law authorizes the board to bring an action for an injunction, together with reasonable attorney fees and court costs. Proposed law further provides that, if the board is unsuccessful in obtaining injunctive relief, the court may award attorney fees and costs to the prevailing party.

(Amends R.S. 37:3552, 3553, 3554(A), (B), (D), (E), and (F), 3555, 3556, 3557, 3558(A), (B), and (D), 3559, 3561, 3563, 3564, 3565, and 3566(B) and (C); Repeals R.S. 35:3560)