

Bill Summary
2nd Session of the 58th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 1741
Version:	INT
Request No.:	3424
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Date:	01/26/2022

Bill Analysis

SB 1741 defines “massage therapy establishment” as a fixed business location, address, building, or property, other than a licensed cosmetology or barbering establishment, where a person engages in, conducts, carries on, or permits to be engaged in the practice of massage therapy as it relates to the Massage Therapy Practice Act. The measure prohibits any person not licensed as a massage therapist from practicing massage therapy for remuneration nor shall unlicensed persons operate a massage therapy establishment without an establishment license. To obtain a license, a person must be 18 years of age or older as well as provide proof that the establishment maintains general liability insurance. Additionally, applicants for an establishment license must disclose whether he or she was denied a license in another jurisdiction and whether he or she holds a license in another jurisdiction. Applicants are also required to submit to a national criminal history check and disclose whether they have been convicted of a crime. The State Board of Cosmetology and Barbering may deny a license if applicant has pleaded guilty, nolo contendere, or been convicted of a crime that substantially relates to the ownership, operation, or management of a massage establishment or poses a reasonable threat to public health or safety. The measure also authorizes the Board to inspect licensed premises. Records and information obtained in connection with an investigation of alleged violations shall be confidential in the same manner as provided in the Oklahoma Cosmetology and Barbering Act and rules of the Board but may be disclosed to law enforcement or regulatory agencies. The Board is authorized to levy a fine of \$500.00 per violation.

The measure provides that nonresident persons holding a license from another state offering services part of an emergency response team working in conjunction with disaster relief officials may not offer the services to the general public. Additionally, the measure repeals language creating the Advisory Board on Massage Therapy and lowers the fees for renewal and initial licensing fee for a massage therapy license from \$50.00 to \$25.00 per year and sets the initial license fee at \$30.00 for a massage therapy establishment license. Education requirements are also modified by the measure for a massage therapy license to require at least 500 clock hours of formal education from a state licensed or accredited massage therapy school. The measure authorizes the Board to issue original licenses and temporary work permits as well as place probationary conditions on an original massage therapist license or temporary work permit if the applicant was convicted of a crime or been subject to disciplinary procedures in another jurisdiction.

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