

April 21, 2005

H 1519. AMEND MASSAGE THERAPY ACT/FEES/CRIM. CHECKS. AMENDING THE LAWS UNDER THE NORTH CAROLINA MASSAGE AND BODYWORK THERAPY PRACTICE ACT TO EXPAND THE EXISTING LAWS REGULATING MASSAGE AND BODYWORK THERAPY SCHOOLS; TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD TO ESTABLISH FEES FOR LICENSING MASSAGE AND BODYWORK THERAPY SCHOOLS; AND TO ALLOW THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO CONDUCT CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECKS FROM STATE AND NATIONAL REPOSITORIES OF CRIMINAL HISTORY OF APPLICANTS FOR LICENSURE TO PRACTICE MASSAGE AND BODYWORK THERAPY. Amends GS Chapter 90, Article 36, regulating the practice of massage and bodywork therapy as follows: (1) adds definitions of "criminal history record check" and "sexual contact" and amends definition of "massage and bodywork therapy" to exclude acts intended to provide sexual stimulation or contact; (2) modifies the qualifications established for members of the NC Board of Massage and Bodywork Therapy; (3) amends licensure requirements to increase certain examination and licensure fees, replace reciprocity provision with provision that establishes criteria for licensure by endorsement, modify the continuing education requirements for license renewal according to length of the licensure period, and authorize the Board to deny, suspend, or revoke a therapist's license for sexual contact in the course of therapy and reinstate licenses under certain circumstances; (4) prohibits the establishment of a therapy school without the approval of Board; (5) enacts new GS 90-637 to give Board the authority to approve therapy schools within and outside NC and to establish school approval procedures, criteria, fees, and bond requirements and to specify grounds for suspension or revocation of school approval; (6) requires that all applicants for licensure as a massage or bodywork therapist consent to a criminal history record check and sets forth the procedures to be followed by the Board upon receiving results of check. Enacts new GS 114-19.11A to authorize the Dep't of Justice to provide applicant's criminal history to the Board. Makes conforming changes.

Intro. by Wright.

Ref. to Finance

GS 90, 114