

By: Rose

H.B. No. 2644

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the requirements for a massage therapist license.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 455.156(b), Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) An applicant for a license under this section must be an individual and:

(1) present evidence satisfactory to the department that the person

~~(A)~~ has satisfactorily completed massage therapy studies in a 500-hour minimum ~~[300-hour]~~, supervised course of instruction provided by a massage therapy instructor at a massage school, a licensed massage school, a state-approved educational institution, or any combination of instructors or schools, in which at least:

(A) 200 ~~[(i) 125]~~ hours are taught by a licensed massage therapy instructor and dedicated to the study of massage therapy techniques and theory and the practice of manipulation of soft tissue, with at least 125 hours dedicated to the study of Swedish massage therapy techniques ~~[and taught by a massage therapy instructor]~~;

(B) [(ii)] 50 hours are dedicated to the study of anatomy;

(C) [(iii)] 25 hours are dedicated to the study

1 of physiology;

2 (D) 50 hours are dedicated to the study of
3 kinesiology;

4 (E) 40 hours are dedicated to the study of
5 pathology;

6 (F) 20 [(iv) 15] hours are dedicated to the
7 study of hydrotherapy;

8 (G) 45 [(v) 15] hours are dedicated to the study
9 of massage therapy laws and rules, business practices, and
10 professional ethics standards;

11 (H) [(vi)] 20 hours are dedicated to the study of
12 health, ~~and~~ hygiene, first aid, universal precautions, and
13 cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR); and

14 (I) [(vii)] 50 hours are spent in an internship
15 program; ~~or~~

16 [(B) has practiced massage therapy as a
17 profession for not less than five years in another state or country
18 that the department determines does not maintain standards and
19 requirements of practice and licensing or registration that
20 substantially conform to the standards and requirements of this
21 state,]

22 (2) pass the ~~[practical and]~~ written ~~[portions of the]~~
23 state examination; and

24 (3) be at least 18 years of age.

25 SECTION 2. Except as provided by Section 3 of this Act, the
26 changes in law made by this Act to Section 455.156, Occupations
27 Code, apply only to a license applicant who enrolls in a massage

1 therapist training program for the first time on or after the
2 effective date of this Act. An applicant who enrolled in a massage
3 therapist training program for the first time before that date is
4 governed by the law in effect immediately before the effective date
5 of this Act, and the former law is continued in effect for that
6 purpose.

7 SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act by the
8 deletion of former Section 455.156(b)(1)(B), Occupations Code,
9 applies only to an application for a license filed on or after the
10 effective date of this Act. A license application filed before that
11 date is governed by the law in effect at the time the application is
12 filed, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

13 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect January 1, 2008.