

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Licensing & Administrative Procedures  
For HB 1433

Compiled on: Sunday, April 2, 2023 3:26 PM

Note: Comments received by the committee reflect only the view of the individual(s) submitting the comment, who retain sole responsibility for the content of the comment. Neither the committee nor the Texas House of Representatives takes a position on the views expressed in any comment. The committee compiles the comments received for informational purposes only and does not exercise any editorial control over comments.

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Hearing Date: March 29, 2023 8:00 AM

Donetta Collins, Licensed Massage Therapist  
Therapeutic Reset Mobile Massage LLC  
Beaumont, TX

As a mobile massage therapist, having to obtain a license for each city I travel to would be tons of paperwork and fees. I travel to all of Golden Triangle and surrounding cities. The strain of keeping additional paperwork would also put the workers at TDLR thru more as well as the therapists all through out the entire state that travel like mys

John Zimmerman  
I Am Massage  
San Antonio, TX

Just another tax on the poor. Look up what an LMT makes yearly. This bill is laughable. How about this...all government workers MUST work in the private sector for a period of no less than ten years. If that were the case you would understand why this bill is so terrible. But no, you just keep spending our money and creating more rules for us to live by. Ann get a real job in the private sector. See what it means to create for yourself instead of acting as a parasite to those who actually produce a good or service. SMH

Sheli Stringer, Licensed Massage Therapist  
Self, Licensed Massage Therapist  
Pasadena, TX

I am against having a license of massage therapy in other cities in the state of Texas.

Elisabeth Smith  
self, attorney  
Austin, TX

I support this bill! Dozens of massage therapists who had licenses issued to them by DSHS prior to 2017 later had their licenses revoked by TLDR due to remote criminal history which was disclosed at the time of initial licensure. These licensees did everything right in the process to obtain licensure, RENEWED their licenses multiple times through both DSHS and TLDR, only to have their hard work taken away from them unceremoniously. The state of Texas needs to do better than this. Multiple TDLR commissioners have, on the record, expressed regret at having to revoke these licenses, but their hands are tied. The legislature can right this egregious wrong by passing HB 1433.

Janine Trottier, Licensed Massage Therapist

Massage Envy

Dallas, TX

Against this bill

Enedina DeLee, Massage Therapist

Self/Massage Therapist

Mesquite, TX

None

kristen lumsden

Massage by Kristen

Austin, TX

This is absolutely ridiculous to have therapists be licensed per City. I work in Austin, hutto, Taylor, Buda, Kyle, Houston, lake Jackson.

We are a group that has been heavily hit by recession and by Covid and we don't make a ton of money and now you want us to pay you for a license per city. This destroys mobile massage therapy and for what!?

Geneve Varela

Massage therapist

Austin, TX

Please do not pass this bill. I travel for massage therapy and it would be a big burden to need a registration in each of the cities I travel too

Bridgette Horak

Self/licensed massage therapist

Wylie, TX

I am already licensed through the state of Texas.

Lana Riley, Lmt

Self LMT

Hamilton, TX

Making a Massage Therapist have a license for every city they serve in Texas is more than I think we need . I would cause more work and issues for the cities and the Therapist's. Please reconsider the bill and keep it as it is . It is hard enough to keep up with the licensing process as it is without causing more issues for traveling Massage Therapist. Thank you for your consideration in this request.

Jasmin Williams

Self / Massage Therapist

San Antonio, TX

Thelma Haley  
Self  
Pilot Point, TX

I am opposed to HB2134, which if passed would not regulate or stop unlicensed and illicit operations purporting to offer massage services. The tools are already available because these are illegal businesses. They are criminals already according to Texas law, whether licensed or not. Human Trafficking, prostitution, and practicing massage without a license are crimes by definition.

Texas (TDLR) already regulates me more restrictively than any state in the U.S. and is a model for that effort. I pay licensing fees to practice massage therapy in Texas, and am subject to regular and unannounced inspections and fines for not following the laws and rules as mandated. As a professional, I have to follow hundreds of rules for the regulation of Massage Therapists and Massage Establishments, or be potentially fined, or have my license revoked. Dozens of the rules are just about illicit practices. I must be fingerprinted and go through a criminal background check prior to licensing and upon each renewal and am required to complete 12 continuing education hours and a mandatory Human Trafficking course with each license renewal. As a Massage Therapist if I operate a Massage Establishment another separate license is required. Allowing a city to also have requirements to regulate massage businesses would be a burden on existing businesses, confusing as individual cities could have rules in conflict with TDLR, and costly by requiring additional fees like permit fees to operate in addition to the licensing fees I already pay, these rules may be different from city to city where I practice Massage Therapy or operate a Massage Establishment. A Massage Establishment owner who has businesses in multiple cities will have to navigate an already challenging path and could literally have different closing times in different cities for the same business type. Cities already have the ability to send in their police departments and inspect my business at any time to see if I am in violation of Chapter 455. If the business is not licensed for example as a reflexology or Thai Massage business with TDLR, the city can regulate those business types any way they choose as they do not fall under TDLR purview. We do not need more regulations for licensed massage therapists and establishments. We need to be protected from cities mandating additional requirements to operate already licensed and well-regulated Massage Therapists and Massage Establishments. In addition, this bill is vague and unenforceable with unclear repercussions and outcomes for Licensed Massage Establishments, and doesn't answer who will ultimately enforce this law and how will cities enforce it and be stopped from ultimately abusing it to keep legitimate businesses out of their city.

Cities have the tool for law enforcement as stated

Sec. 455.353. ENFORCEMENT BY PEACE OFFICERS. A peace officer of this state, including a peace officer employed by a political subdivision o

Marian Kirby, Licensed Massage Therapist

Self/ Licensed Massage Therapist

Garland, TX

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Cities have the tool for law enforcement as stated

Sec. 455.353. ENFORCEMENT BY PEACE OFFICERS. A peace officer of this state, including a peace officer employed by a political subdivision of the state, may enforce this chapter.

Chelsa Connolly

LMT

Longview, TX

Massage Therapy is a profession that is uniquely positioned to help manage and resolve the epidemic of musculoskeletal pain. As the population continues to age, this issue which affects quality of life, overall productivity of society and burdens the already stressed medical system. This bill will add an undo stress on massage therapists, and restrict their ability further to contribute to society. While Texas already maintains some of the most stringent restrictions on Massage Therapy as a profession, we also have the lowest barrier to entry as professionals. Including some of the lowest standards of entry level education among the States. Adding local licensure requirements and restrictive scope of practice does not serve to move the profession forward in a way that serves society. I encourage that this bill not pass for the above stated reasons.

Collette Beasley, Licenses Massage Therapist

Self Massage therapist

Austin, TX

We are already licensed through TDLR which is publicly accessible to the public and law enforcement to check status of licensure.

As an occupation we need to be moving forward into a national certification, not moving backwards into even smaller county licensure.

Kelsy Vick, Dr.

Kinetique

Leander, TX

I am a physical therapist and utilize massage therapy services in conjunction with a multitude of other healthcare services for my own patients to assist in their healing. Any proposal to give patients less access to massage therapists is limiting their recovery. Furthermore, it is hard to find a new provider you trust. If a provider is only licensed in 1 city but you've seen them for years, transitioning that care to someone else places undue mental burden on them in who to trust in a vulnerable situation. Thank you for considering!

Stanley McDonald

Self, Licensed Massage Therapist

Houston, TX

This would not be helpful and would cause unnecessary expense for legitimate and medical massage based practices. We are not a "Parlor".

There are both some licensed and some unlicensed therapist engaging in illegal activity. Requiring more licensing in each city will not discourage illegal activity. It would only discourage legitimate new therapists from enter the occupation and helping people.