
By: ~~Senator~~ **Senators Pinsky and Hafer**
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CHAPTER 131

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Massage Therapists - Exemption From Requirements for Certification and**
3 **Registration**

4 FOR the purpose of exempting certain practitioners of certain therapies from the
5 definition of massage therapy; ~~exempting certain practitioners of certain~~
6 ~~therapies from the certification and registration requirements for massage~~
7 ~~therapists; and generally relating to exemptions from the requirement for~~
8 ~~certification or registration of massage therapists.~~

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article - Health Occupations
11 Section 3-5A-01(g) ~~and 3-5A-05(a)(2)~~
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2000 Replacement Volume)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
15 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article - Health Occupations**

17 3-5A-01.

18 (g) (1) "Massage therapy" means the use of manual techniques on soft
19 tissues of the human body including effleurage (stroking), petrissage (kneading),
20 tapotement (tapping), stretching, compression, vibration, and friction, with or
21 without the aid of heat limited to hot packs and heating pads, cold water, or
22 nonlegend topical applications, for the purpose of improving circulation, enhancing

1 muscle relaxation, relieving muscular pain, reducing stress, or promoting health and
2 well-being.

3 (2) "Massage therapy" does not include:

4 (i) The diagnosis or treatment of illness, disease, or injury; [or]

5 (ii) The adjustment, manipulation, or mobilization of any of the
6 articulations of the osseous structures of the body or spine; OR

7 (III) ~~THE PRACTICE OF TECHNIQUES THAT ARE EXECUTED WITH~~
8 ~~THE RECIPIENT FULLY CLOTHED AND ARE SPECIFICALLY INTENDED TO AFFECT THE~~
9 ~~HUMAN ENERGY FIELD INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO:~~

10 1. ~~BIOENERGY;~~

11 2. ~~HEALING TOUCH;~~

12 3. ~~POLARITY;~~

13 4. ~~REFLEXOLOGY;~~

14 5. ~~REIKI;~~

15 6. ~~SHIATSU; OR~~

16 7. ~~THERAPEUTIC TOUCH~~ THE LAYING ON OF HANDS,
17 CONSISTING OF PRESSURE OR MOVEMENT ON A FULLY CLOTHED INDIVIDUAL, TO
18 SPECIFICALLY AFFECT THE ELECTROMAGNETIC ENERGY OR ENERGETIC FIELD OF
19 THE HUMAN BODY.

20 (3) IN PARAGRAPH (2)(III) OF THIS SUBSECTION, "FULLY CLOTHED" DOES
21 NOT REQUIRE THE WEARING OF FOOTWEAR.

22 (3) (4) The provisions of paragraph (2) of this subsection do not
23 preclude the application of the modalities described in paragraph (1) of this
24 subsection to an individual who has an injury.

25 ~~3-5A-05.~~

26 (a) (2) ~~This section does not apply to:~~

27 (i) ~~A student enrolled in an approved education program as~~
28 ~~determined by the Board while practicing massage therapy in that program;~~

29 (ii) ~~An individual permitted to practice massage therapy under~~
30 ~~regulations adopted by the Board, if the individual:~~

31 1. ~~Otherwise has qualified to practice massage therapy in~~
32 ~~any other state or country that has substantially similar requirements for~~

