

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE  
Revised

House Bill 178 (Delegate Hubbard)

Environmental Matters

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**Health Occupations - Massage Therapists and Non-Therapeutic Massage Practitioners**

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This bill prohibits uncertified individuals from practicing massage therapy and prohibits unregistered individuals from “practicing non-therapeutic massage.” The bill also alters the definition of “practice massage therapy” by repealing the requirement that an individual must represent oneself to be a certified massage therapist. In addition, the bill requires the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners to register massage practitioners. Massage practitioners may only practice non-therapeutic massage in a non-health care setting.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Special fund revenues may increase by an indeterminate minimal amount. No effect on expenditures.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal. Certain uncertified individuals who practice massage therapy will be unable to do so because this bill broadens the scope of the licensed practice of massage therapy.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**Background:** Chapter 678 of 1996 (House Bill 51) gave the Board of Chiropractic Examiners the authority to regulate the practice of massage therapy. Certification of massage therapists was to begin January 1, 1998. While regulations have been proposed to administer certification, to date they have not been approved and no massage therapists have been certified.

**State Revenues:** Special fund revenues could increase by an indeterminate minimal amount

as a result of increased application and certification fees. Approximately 1,000 - 1,600 individuals are expected to apply for certification or registration. Proposed application fees are \$100, and proposed biennial certification fees are \$200. Approximately half of the applicants will seek certification and half will seek registration. No massage therapists have actually applied for certification under current law, and the bill's provisions would only minimally increase the number of anticipated applicants as a result of the definition of "practice non-therapeutic massage."

The board does not anticipate any significant revenue increase from the fine provision, because the board rarely imposes fines as a disciplinary measure.

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**Information Source(s):** Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Board of Chiropractic Examiners), Department of Legislative Services

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