

# Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly

2001 Session

## FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 582 (Senator Hafer)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

### Health Occupations - Massage Therapy - Reflexology Exemption

This bill exempts the practice of reflexology from the current law that governs the practice of massage therapy. The Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene must adopt regulations to implement the bill's provisions.

### Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Board of Chiropractic Examiner special fund revenues could decrease by an estimated \$6,600 in FY 2002. Future year reductions account for biennial certification renewals and assume a constant number of renewals. No effect on expenditures.

(in dollars)	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
SF Revenue	(\$6,600)	\$0	(\$6,600)	\$0	(\$6,600)
Expenditure	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Effect	(\$6,600)	\$0	(\$6,600)	\$0	(\$6,600)

*Note: ( ) = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect*

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential minimal. Small business reflexology practitioners would no longer be required to obtain certification or registration to practice massage therapy or non-therapeutic massage.

### Analysis

**Current Law:** Massage therapy means the use of manual techniques on soft tissues of the human body including effleurage, petrissage, tapotement, stretching, compression,

vibration, and friction, with or without the aid of heat, cold water, or nonlegend topical applications, for the purpose of improving circulation, enhancing muscle relaxation, relieving muscular pain, reducing stress, or promoting health and well being. Massage therapy does not include the diagnosis or treatment of illness, disease, or injury; nor the adjustment, manipulation, or mobilization of any of the articulations of the osseous structures of the body or spine.

**Background:** According to the Reflexology Association of America, reflexology is a science based on the premise that there are zones and reflex areas in the feet and hands that correspond to all glands, organs, parts, and systems of the body. The physical act of applying pressure using thumb, finger, and hand techniques to these reflex areas results in the reduction of stress that promotes physiological changes in the body.

**State Fiscal Effect:** The Board of Chiropractic Examiners currently certifies or registers approximately 1,600 massage therapists and non-therapeutic massage practitioners. The board estimates that 30-50 certified individuals practice reflexology and would no longer require certification or registration to practice. The Department of Legislative Services advises that many individuals who practice reflexology may also practice therapies that would continue to fall within the practice of massage therapy and therefore would continue to require certification or registration.

Assuming that two-thirds of the upper range (50) of those practicing reflexology do not also practice massage therapy, up to 33 individuals who practice reflexology would no longer apply for certification (\$200 biennial fee). Accordingly, special fund revenues would decrease by as much as \$6,600 in fiscal 2002. Future year estimates reflect biennial certification renewal.

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene could adopt regulations to implement the bill's provisions using existing budgeted resources.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

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