

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 789

(Senator Klausmeier)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

**State Board of Chiropractic and Massage Therapy Examiners - Terms of
Members**

This emergency bill authorizes the three new massage therapy members and one additional chiropractor member to begin their terms on the State Board of Chiropractic and Massage Therapy Examiners on May 1, 2009, rather than July 1, 2009.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's requirements can be handled with existing Department of Health and Mental Hygiene resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The State Board of Chiropractic and Massage Therapy Examiners regulates the practice of massage therapy. Therapists have to be licensed to practice massage therapy in the State or registered to practice nontherapeutic massage.

Under Chapters 242 and 243 of 2008, the requirement for licensure replaced the previous requirement for certification. In addition, a Massage Therapy Advisory Committee within the chiropractic board consisting of six members – two licensed chiropractors and four certified massage therapists – had assisted the board in regulating massage therapists. The advisory committee developed and recommended board regulations, a code of ethics for the practice of massage therapy, and certification and registration

requirements. The committee also evaluated applicant credentials, evaluated massage therapy education programs for board approval, considered complaints brought to the board, kept a record of proceedings, and submitted an annual report to the board.

However, Chapters 242 and 243 renamed the Board of Chiropractic Examiners as the Board of Chiropractic and Massage Therapy Examiners and repealed the Massage Therapy Advisory Committee. Three licensed massage therapists and one chiropractor were added to the board's membership, which previously had no massage therapist members. While the Massage Therapy Advisory Committee was repealed with the bill's October 1, 2008 effective date, the terms of the massage therapy board members and the additional chiropractor member do not begin until July 1, 2009.

The board regulates approximately 2,886 active and 367 inactive massage therapists in the State.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1460 (Delegate Hubbard) – Rules and Executive Nominations.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 9, 2009
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