

HOUSE BILL 975

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6lr1693
CF SB 492

By: **Delegate Guzzone**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Health

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Occupations – Massage Therapy – Advertising**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting licensed massage therapists, registered massage
4 practitioners, and third parties directed by licensed massage therapists or registered
5 massage practitioners from placing, publishing, or distributing certain
6 advertisements; requiring certain advertisements for massage therapy to include
7 certain information; and generally relating to massage therapy advertising.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
9 Article – Health Occupations
10 Section 6–308(a)(11)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14 Article – Health Occupations
15 Section 6–401
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

20 **Article – Health Occupations**

21 6–308.

22 (a) Subject to the hearing provisions of § 6–309 of this subtitle, the Board may
23 deny a license or registration to an applicant, reprimand a licensee or registration holder,
24 place any licensee or registration holder on probation, or suspend or revoke the license of a

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



licensee or the registration of a registration holder if the applicant, licensee, or registration holder:

(11) Has violated any provision of this title;

6—401.

(a) The Board shall adopt regulations to [establish]:

(1) ESTABLISH standards for advertising or soliciting by licensed massage therapists or registered massage practitioners;

(2) DEFINE SPECIFIC LANGUAGE AND CONTENT PROHIBITED UNDER THIS SECTION; AND

(3) ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING VIOLATIONS OF THIS SECTION BY A LICENSED MASSAGE THERAPIST, REGISTERED MASSAGE PRACTITIONER, OR MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC.

(b) For purposes of this section, the mailing of notices to patients to inform them of times for periodic appointments is not advertising or soliciting.

(c) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, AN ADVERTISEMENT FOR MASSAGE THERAPY SERVICES SHALL INCLUDE THE FULL NAME, AS STATED ON THE LICENSE OR REGISTRATION APPLICATION SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD, AND LICENSE NUMBER OR REGISTRATION NUMBER OF THE LICENSED MASSAGE THERAPIST OR REGISTERED MASSAGE PRACTITIONER PROVIDING THE MASSAGE THERAPY SERVICES ADVERTISED.

(2) AN ADVERTISEMENT FOR MASSAGE THERAPY SERVICES PLACED, PUBLISHED, OR DISTRIBUTED BY A BUSINESS THAT EMPLOYS OR CONTRACTS WITH MULTIPLE LICENSED MASSAGE THERAPISTS OR REGISTERED MASSAGE PRACTITIONERS IS NOT REQUIRED TO INCLUDE THE NAMES AND LICENSE OR REGISTRATION NUMBERS OF EACH LICENSED MASSAGE THERAPIST OR REGISTERED MASSAGE PRACTITIONER EMPLOYED OR CONTRACTED WITH.

[(c)] (D) [A] SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, A licensed message therapist or registered massage practitioner may use a trade name in connection with the practice of massage therapy provided that:

(1) The use of the trade name is not deceptive or misleading;

(2) The advertisement in which the trade name appears includes the name of the licensed massage therapist or registered massage practitioner or the name of the business entity providing the massage therapy services being advertised, as long as the

advertisement includes the name of a licensed massage therapist or registered massage practitioner;

(3) The name of the licensed massage therapist or registered massage practitioner providing massage therapy services appears on the billing invoices, stationery, and any receipt given to a patient; and

(4) Treatment records are maintained that clearly identify the licensed massage therapist or registered massage practitioner who has performed the massage therapy service for the patient.

(E) (1) A LICENSED MASSAGE THERAPIST, REGISTERED MASSAGE PRACTITIONER, OR A THIRD PARTY ACTING ON BEHALF OF A LICENSED MASSAGE THERAPIST OR REGISTERED MASSAGE PRACTITIONER MAY NOT PLACE, PUBLISH, OR DISTRIBUTE, OR CAUSE TO BE PLACED, PUBLISHED, OR DISTRIBUTED, AN ADVERTISEMENT FOR MASSAGE THERAPY SERVICES:

(I) THAT STATES PROSTITUTION SERVICES, ESCORT SERVICES, OR SEXUAL SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE;

(II) ON A WEBSITE KNOWN FOR ADVERTISING PROSTITUTION SERVICES, ESCORT SERVICES, OR SEXUAL SERVICES; OR

(III) THAT INDICATES OR IMPLIES, THROUGH LANGUAGE OR OTHER CONTENT, THAT SEXUAL ACTIVITY IS PART OF THE MASSAGE THERAPY SERVICE.

(2) FOR AN ONLINE ADVERTISEMENT, EACH DAY ON WHICH AN ADVERTISEMENT THAT VIOLATES PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION IS VISIBLE TO THE PUBLIC CONSTITUTES A SEPARATE VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION.

(3) FAILURE TO REMOVE A PHYSICAL SIGN OR BILLBOARD PLACED IN PUBLIC VIEW THAT VIOLATES PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION CONSTITUTES A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION.

(F) ALL ADVERTISEMENTS FOR LICENSED MASSAGE THERAPISTS OR REGISTERED MASSAGE PRACTITIONERS SHALL INCLUDE THE FULL NAME AS LICENSED AND LICENSE NUMBER OF THE LICENSED MASSAGE THERAPIST OR REGISTERED MASSAGE PRACTITIONER PROVIDING THE ADVERTISED MASSAGE THERAPY SERVICES.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2026.