

SENATE BILL 419

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6lr0775
CF HB 42

By: **Senators Simonaire and Augustine**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Occupations – State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners – Revisions**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing an individual registered by the State Board of Massage
4 Therapy Examiners to practice massage therapy in the State to continue to practice
5 massage therapy beyond a certain date; altering the requirements an individual
6 must meet to qualify for a license to practice massage therapy; repealing obsolete
7 qualifications for registered massage practitioners; repealing the requirement that
8 the imposition of a certain administrative penalty be subject to certain hearing
9 requirements; altering certain reinstatement and reactivation requirements; and
10 generally relating to massage therapists.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article – Health Occupations
13 Section 6–301(a), 6–302, 6–305(d), 6–306, and 6–306.2
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Health Occupations**

19 6–301.

20 (a) Except as otherwise provided in this title, before an individual may practice
21 massage therapy in the State, the individual shall be:

22 (1) [On or before October 31, 2026:

23 (i)] Licensed by the Board; or

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



3 (2) On or after November 1, 2026, licensed by the Board].

4 6-302.

7 (b) To qualify for a license, an applicant shall be an individual who:

8 (1) Is of good moral character;

9 (2) Is at least 18 years old;

14 (i) Approved by the Board;

15 (ii) Endorsed by:

16 1. The Commission on Massage Therapy Accreditation; or

19 (iii) Accredited by an institutional accreditation agency recognized by

20 [the]:

21 **1. THE United States Department of Education; OR**

24 (4) [Has] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION,
25 HAS completed 750 contact hours of education in a Board-approved program for the study
26 of massage therapy that includes the following areas of content:

27 (i) Anatomy, physiology, and kinesiology;

28 (ii) Massage therapy theory;

- (iii) Contraindications and pathology;
- (iv) Professional ethics;
- (v) Health and hygiene;
- (vi) Research;
- (vii) Supervised hands-on techniques; and
- (viii) Clinical assessment and documentation;

(5) Has passed an examination approved by the Board; and

(6) Submits to a criminal history records check in accordance with § 6–303
title.

[(c)] On or before September 30, 2024, to qualify to be registered, an applicant shall individual who:

- (1) Is of good moral character;
- (2) Is at least 18 years old;
- (3) Has graduated from a program for the study of massage therapy with:
 - (i) Approved by the Board;
 - (ii) Endorsed by:
 - 1. The Commission on Massage Therapy Accreditation; or
 - 2. An equivalent entity that is an accrediting agency or that accredits both institutions of higher education and programs offering in massage therapy;
 - (iii) Accredited by an institutional accreditation agency recognized by States Department of Education; and
 - (iv) That requires at least 600 contact hours of classroom instruction in the following areas of content:
 - 1. Anatomy, physiology, and kinesiology;
 - 2. Massage therapy theory;

3. Contraindications and pathology;
4. Professional ethics;
5. Health and hygiene;
6. Research;
7. Supervised hands-on techniques; and
8. Clinical assessment and documentation;

(4) Has passed an examination approved by the Board; and

(5) Submits to a criminal history records check in accordance with § 6–303
title.]

(C) (1) AN APPLICANT WHO HAS GRADUATED FROM AN OUT-OF-STATE
RAM FOR THE STUDY OF MASSAGE THERAPY SHALL HAVE GRADUATED FROM A
RAM FOR THE STUDY OF MASSAGE THERAPY THAT:

13 (I) HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE STATE'S HIGHER EDUCATION
14 COMMISSION OR SIMILAR ENTITY THAT REGULATES INSTITUTIONS OF
15 POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION;

(II) HAS BEEN ENDORSED BY:

22 (III) IS ACCREDITED BY AN INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION
23 AGENCY RECOGNIZED BY:

1 (IV) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION,
2 REQUIRES AT LEAST 750 CONTACT HOURS THAT INCLUDES THE AREAS OF CONTENT
3 REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (B)(4) OF THIS SECTION.

12 (III) DOCUMENTED EVIDENCE OF HAVING COMPLETED AT LEAST
13 1,000 LICENSED, OUT-OF-STATE HOURS OF HANDS-ON MASSAGE THERAPY
14 EXPERIENCE WITHIN THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING 2 YEARS.

15 (d) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Board may waive any
16 requirement of this subtitle for an applicant who is licensed, certified, or registered to
17 practice massage therapy in another state.

18 (2) The Board may grant a waiver under paragraph (1) of this subsection
19 only if the applicant:

20 (i) Pays the application fee set by the Board; and

21 (ii) Provides adequate evidence that the applicant:

27 3. Is of good moral character.

28 (e) On or after October 1, 2024, the Board may not issue an initial registration to
29 practice as a registered massage practitioner.

30 (f) [On or before October 31, 2026, the] **THE** Board shall convert the registration
31 of an individual registered by the Board as a registered massage practitioner to a license

1 to practice massage therapy if the individual complies with regulations adopted by the
2 Board.

3 6–305.

4 (d) (1) Each licensed massage therapist or registered massage practitioner
5 shall notify the Board in writing of any change in the name or address of the licensed
6 massage therapist or registered massage practitioner within 60 days after the change
7 occurred.

8 (2) [Subject to the hearing provisions of § 6–309 of this subtitle, if] IF a
9 licensed massage therapist or registered massage practitioner fails to notify the Board
10 within the time required under this subsection, the Board may impose an administrative
11 penalty of \$100.

12 6–306.

13 (a) If a licensed massage therapist or registered massage practitioner fails for any
14 reason to renew a license or registration, the Board shall reinstate the license or
15 registration if the former licensed massage therapist or former registered massage
16 practitioner:

17 (1) Applies to the Board for reinstatement of the license or registration
18 within 5 years after the license or registration expires;

19 (2) Meets the renewal requirements of § 6–305 of this subtitle;

20 (3) Submits to the Board satisfactory evidence of having completed a State
21 and national criminal history records check in accordance with § 6–303 of this subtitle; and

22 (4) Pays to the Board the reinstatement fee set by the Board.

23 (b) (1) [The] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OR (3) OF THIS
24 SUBSECTION, THE Board may not reinstate the license of a former licensed massage
25 therapist or registration of a former registered massage practitioner who fails to apply for
26 reinstatement of the license or registration within 5 years after the license or registration
27 expires.

28 (2) [If the Board does not reinstate a license or registration under
29 paragraph (1) of this subsection, a] A former licensed massage therapist [or former
30 registered massage practitioner] may apply for a new license [or registration] by meeting
31 the licensing [or registration] requirements in effect at the time of application for obtaining
32 a new license [or registration] under this title and any additional requirements determined
33 by the Board.

6 6-306.2.

9 (1) An application for inactive status on the form required by the Board;
10 and

11 (2) The inactive status fee set by the Board.

12 (b) A licensed massage therapist or a registered massage practitioner on inactive
13 status may reactivate the license or registration if the licensee or registration holder:

14 (1) Complies with the continuing education and CPR requirements that
15 are:

16 (i) Established in regulations adopted by the Board; and

17 (ii) In effect for the current license or registration renewal period in
18 which the licensee or registration holder seeks to reactivate the license or registration;
19 [and]

20 (2) SUBMITS TO THE BOARD SATISFACTORY EVIDENCE OF HAVING
21 COMPLETED A STATE AND NATIONAL CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS CHECK IN
22 ACCORDANCE WITH § 6-303 OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND

23 (2) (3) Pays the reactivation fee set by the Board.

24 (C) A REGISTERED MASSAGE PRACTITIONER ON INACTIVE STATUS WHO
25 FAILS TO REACTIVATE A REGISTRATION WITHIN 5 YEARS OF FIRST BEING PLACED
26 ON INACTIVE STATUS MAY REACTIVATE THE REGISTRATION ONLY BY MEETING THE
27 LICENSING REQUIREMENTS IN EFFECT FOR OBTAINING A NEW LICENSE UNDER THIS
28 TITLE AND ANY ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS DETERMINED BY THE BOARD.

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
30 1, 2026.