

Good Afternoon Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the Health and Government Operations committee.

I am Senator Arthur Ellis representing the 28th Legislative District of Maryland, Charles County. I am here today to present Senate Bill 216, Massage Therapy - Definition and Reimbursement.

The purpose of this bill is to alter the definition of "massage therapy", and repeal a provision of law that provides that certain provisions of law do not require a nonprofit health insurance plan, an insurer, a health maintenance organization, or a person acting as a third party administrator to reimburse a licensed massage therapist or registered massage practitioner for any services rendered.

According to witness testimony from the Maryland State Board of Massage Therapists, "The main purpose of SB 216 is to update the definition of Massage Therapy and repeal a provision of law that does not require a nonprofit health insurance plan, an insurer, a health maintenance organization, or a person acting as a third-party administrator to reimburse a licensed massage therapist or registered massage practitioner for any services rendered. Additionally, the bill alters the date after which the Maryland Board of Massage Therapy Examiners may issue a registration to practice massage therapy in a setting that is not a health care setting."

This bill was amended to "DELAY, AT THE REQUEST OF THE BOARD, THE DATE BY WHICH THE BOARD MUST STOP ISSUING REGISTRATIONS TO PRACTICE MASSAGE THERAPY IN A SETTING THAT IS NOT A HEALTHCARE SETTING FOR ONE YEAR."

Cross-file: HB 242 (Delegate Bagnall)

Thank you to Chair Pena-Melnyk and Vice Chair Cullison for the opportunity to present Senate Bill 216, Massage Therapy - Definition and Reimbursement, and I ask for your favorable report.