

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025

A Bill

SENATE BILL 168

4
5 By: Senator Rice
6 By: Representative K. Brown

For An Act To Be Entitled

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8
9 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A STATE EXAMINATION FOR LICENSURE
10 OF MASSAGE THERAPISTS; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND
11 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12
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Subtitle

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15 TO ESTABLISH A STATE EXAMINATION FOR
16 LICENSURE OF MASSAGE THERAPISTS; AND TO
17 DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 17, Chapter 86, Subchapter 3, is
22 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

23 17-86-315. State examination for licensure.

24 (a) The State Board of Health shall administer a state examination for
25 licensure as a massage therapist that shall be administered at the time and
26 place designated by the department.

27 (b)(1) The state examination shall be a one hundred (100) question
28 examination and be proportionate to educational requirements and classroom
29 hours based on the Massage Therapy Act, § 17-86-101 et seq.

30 (2) The state examination shall include:

- 31 (A) Nine (9) questions concerning anatomy and physiology;
32 (B) Nine (9) questions concerning kinesiology;
33 (C) Twenty (20) questions concerning pathology,
34 contraindications, and special populations;
35 (D) Forty-five (45) questions concerning massage
36 techniques;



1 (E) Five (5) questions concerning hydrotherapy,
2 electrotherapy, and heliotherapy;

3 (F) Five (5) questions concerning hygiene and infection
4 control; and

5 (G) Seven (7) questions concerning massage therapy law,
6 business management, and personal ethics.

7 (c) A passing grade of seventy percent (70%) on the state examination
8 is required for licensure.

9 (d) The state examination shall not be computer adaptive.

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11 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
12 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the costs of national
13 licensing examinations are excessive and hinder some individuals from being
14 licensed to practice massage therapy in this state; that this state has a
15 shortage of massage therapists to provide care to the citizens of this state;
16 that this act would allow individuals to take a state examination for
17 licensure as a massage therapist in this state and help increase massage
18 therapists in this state; and that this act is immediately necessary because
19 this state has a shortage of massage therapists to provide care for citizens
20 of this state due to the excessive costs of the national licensing
21 examinations. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act
22 being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health,
23 and safety shall become effective on:

24 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

25 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
26 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
27 bill; or

28 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
29 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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