

1 State of Arkansas
2 94th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2023
4

As Engrossed: H2/2/23 H2/7/23

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1115

5 By: Representative Maddox
6 By: Senator Rice
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE DEFINITION AND REQUIREMENTS OF A
10 MASTER MESSAGE THERAPIST WITHIN THE MESSAGE THERAPY
11 ACT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12
13

Subtitle

15 TO AMEND THE DEFINITION AND REQUIREMENTS
16 OF A MASTER MESSAGE THERAPIST WITHIN THE
17 MESSAGE THERAPY ACT.
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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-86-102(8), concerning the definition of
23 "master message therapist" within the Massage Therapy Act, is amended to read
24 as follows:

25 (8)(A) "Master message therapist" means a person who:

26 (i) Before July 1, 2010, is a licensed and
27 registered massage therapist who has completed no fewer than two hundred
28 fifty (250) hours of practical experience as a massage therapist, which may
29 be gained in part or in whole as an assistant to an instructor in a massage
30 school and has completed no less than one hundred twenty-five (125)
31 continuing education hours as approved by the department;

32 (ii) Either:

33 (a) On or after July 1, 2010, has:

34 (1) Been ~~been~~ an active and practicing
35 licensee and registered as a massage therapist for a period of not less than
36 two (2) years preceding the application for an upgrade to master massage



1 therapist; and

2 ~~(iii)(2) On or after July 1, 2010, in~~ In
3 addition to the experience under subdivision (8)(A)(i) of this section, ~~has~~
4 completed no less than one hundred twenty-five (125) continuing education
5 hours as approved by the department; ~~and~~ or

6 (b) On or after July 1, 2023, has:

7 (1) Been an active practicing licensee
8 and registered as a massage therapist for the period of not less than twelve
9 (12) months preceding the application for an upgrade to master massage
10 therapist; and

11 (2) Completed not less than three
12 hundred (300) hours of advanced coursework in massage therapy as part of an
13 Associates of Applied Science degree of massage therapy from an accredited
14 college or university; and

15 ~~(iv)(iii)~~ (iii) Is determined by the department to be
16 qualified to be licensed and registered to practice massage therapy.

17 (B) "Master massage therapist" includes a person who has
18 previously obtained the master massage therapist license under a prior state
19 law.

20 (C) Master massage therapists may:

21 (i) Instruct continuing education programs approved
22 by the department;

23 (ii) Instruct any of the procedures in subdivision
24 (3) of this section; and

25 (iii) Instruct, as directed by a massage therapy
26 instructor, basic curricula in a massage therapy school registered by the
27 department as required by § 17-86-306(e);

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29 /s/Maddox

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32 **APPROVED: 3/2/23**