

HB 1419 -- MASSAGE THERAPISTS

SPONSOR: Portwood

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Special Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 8 to 0.

This bill changes the laws regarding the licensing of massage therapists. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Requires applicants to be of good moral character;
- (2) Requires completion of a program of massage therapy studies as defined by the Board of Therapeutic Massage;
- (3) Requires that all massage therapy instruction be supervised;
- (4) Allows a person completing a massage therapy program of less than 500 hours of supervised instruction to submit an application for licensure and requires the board to establish the requirements to be completed prior to being issued a license; and
- (5) Allows for the extension of a provisional license.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2009, FY 2010, and FY 2011.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill expands the Massage Therapy Practice Act in order to provide more supervised instruction and provisional licenses.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Portwood; Board of Therapeutic Massage; and Esteban Ruvalcaba, American Massage Therapy Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.