

FILED JAN 30 '03

SENATE FILE 71

BY LUNDBY

Passed Senate, Date _____ Passed House, Date _____
 Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
 Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to massage therapy by providing for a study
 2 regarding the modalities associated with massage therapy and
 3 providing a temporary exemption from licensure requirements.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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SF 71
 STATE GOVERNMENT

1 Section 1. Section 152C.1, Code 2003, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 4. "Reflexology" means the application of
4 specific pressures using thumb, finger, and hand techniques to
5 zones and reflex areas in the feet and hands, with the
6 objective of reducing tension, improving circulation, and
7 promoting the natural functioning of the human body.

8 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 152C.5A MASSAGE THERAPY MODALITIES
9 STUDY.

10 The Iowa department of public health, with input from the
11 board, shall conduct a study regarding the modalities
12 associated with the practice of massage therapy. The study
13 shall be conducted with the input of licensed massage
14 therapists, reflexologists, and unlicensed persons practicing
15 modalities related to massage therapy. The objective of the
16 study shall be to determine which modalities shall be included
17 under the definition of massage therapy and require licensure,
18 and shall include, but not be limited to, a recommendation
19 regarding the licensure of reflexologists. The study shall
20 focus on the health, safety, and welfare of the public
21 regarding each of the modalities reviewed. The department
22 shall submit a report summarizing the results of the study and
23 making recommendations regarding modality inclusion to the
24 general assembly by January 15, 2004.

25 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 152C.7A TEMPORARY EXEMPTIONS.

26 An individual who is engaged exclusively in the practice of
27 reflexology or an unlicensed individual who is practicing a
28 modality related to massage therapy, and whose professional
29 practice does not incorporate aspects that constitute massage
30 therapy as defined in section 152C.1, shall not be subject to
31 the licensure provisions of this chapter for a one-year period
32 beginning July 1, 2003, and ending June 30, 2004. Beginning
33 July 1, 2004, an individual who is engaged exclusively in the
34 practice of reflexology or an unlicensed individual who is
35 practicing a modality related to massage therapy shall be

1 subject to licensure pursuant to this chapter unless, based
2 upon the recommendations contained in the massage therapy
3 modalities study as provided in section 152C.5A, the practice
4 of reflexology or an unlicensed individual who is practicing a
5 modality related to massage therapy is permanently exempted
6 from massage therapy licensure.

7 EXPLANATION

8 This bill provides for a study regarding massage therapy
9 modalities and for a temporary exemption from licensure
10 requirements.

11 The bill requires the Iowa department of public health, in
12 conjunction with the board of massage therapy examiners, to
13 conduct a study regarding the modalities associated with the
14 practice of massage therapy. The bill provides that the study
15 shall be conducted with the input of licensed massage
16 therapists, reflexologists, and unlicensed persons practicing
17 modalities related to massage therapy, with the objective of
18 determining which modalities shall be included under the
19 definition of massage therapy and require licensure. The bill
20 provides that the study shall include, but not be limited to,
21 a recommendation regarding the licensure of reflexologists,
22 and provides a definition of reflexology. The bill provides
23 that the study shall focus on the health, safety, and welfare
24 of the public regarding each of the modalities reviewed, and
25 that the department shall submit a report summarizing the
26 results of the study and making recommendations regarding
27 modality inclusion to the general assembly by January 15,
28 2004.

29 The bill provides that an individual who is engaged
30 exclusively in the practice of reflexology or an unlicensed
31 individual who is practicing a modality related to massage
32 therapy, but whose professional practice does not incorporate
33 aspects that constitute massage therapy as defined in Code
34 section 152C.1, shall not be subject to the licensure
35 provisions of this chapter for a one-year period beginning

1 July 1, 2003, and ending June 30, 2004. Beginning July 1,
2 2004, these individuals shall be subject to licensure unless
3 permanently exempted by law based on the results of the
4 modalities study.

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