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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7117

BILL NUMBER: HB 1302

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 1, 2011

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Massage Therapists.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Yarde

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED: GENERAL
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL**

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: *Licensure of Massage Therapists*- The bill requires massage therapists to be licensed. (Currently they are certified.) The bill provides that all individuals practicing massage therapy must be licensed. (Current law requires certification to use the name "certified massage therapist".)

Prohibition- The bill prohibits local units of government from establishing or maintaining licensing requirements for massage therapy. The bill makes conforming changes.

Effective Date: July 1, 2011.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Licensure of Massage Therapists*- Except for the establishment of a continuing education program, switching from certification to licensure would have a negligible impact to the Professional Licensing Agency (PLA). The bill would grandfather massage therapists with valid certifications on June 30, 2011. There would be no need for these individuals to reapply for licensure, which would save the PLA administrative time from reprocessing applications of existing certifications. Additionally, there would be savings of expense and administrative time to the PLA, if pocket cards did not have to be replaced.

The bill would require the implementation of continuing education. The number of hours of continuing education would be determined by the Board of Massage Therapy (BOMT), but could not exceed 48 hours per renewal cycle. The BOMT and PLA would see an increase in administrative workload as a result of this provision.

The BOMT may require additional business meetings to establish rules for a continuing education program,

which would increase the time needed for the PLA to staff the board meetings to take minutes, prepare meeting packets, and provide other services. Members of the BOMT are not eligible for reimbursement of expenses incurred due to their service on the BOMT.

Background Information- As of September 2010, there were 3,740 certified massage therapists.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Prohibition-* Local units of government currently licensing massage therapists would see a reduction in administrative time devoted to processing licenses.

Explanation of Local Revenues: *Prohibition-* For localities currently licensing massage therapists, the bill's prohibition would stop the collection of fees, thereby reducing local revenues.

State Agencies Affected: Professional Licensing Agency.

Local Agencies Affected: Political subdivisions currently licensing message therapists.

Information Sources: Marty Allain, General Counsel, Professional Licensing Agency.

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