## HB192 ENROLLED



- 1 U9HEXX-2
- 2 By Representative Reynolds
- 3 RFD: Conference Committee on HB192
- 4 First Read: 23-Mar-23
- 5 2023 Regular Session



1 Enrolled, An Act,

2

- 4 Relating to the Alabama Sunset Law; to continue the
- 5 existence and functioning of the Alabama Board of Massage
- 6 Therapy until October 1, 2024, with certain modifications: To
- 7 amend Sections 34-43-6, 34-43-9, 34-43-11, 34-43-12, 34-43-13,
- 8 34-43-14, 34-43-15, 34-43-20, and 34-43-21, Code of Alabama
- 9 1975, as amended by Act 2022-408, 2022 Regular Session; to
- 10 require representation on the board from each Congressional
- 11 District; to require meetings to be recorded, upon request; to
- 12 require the publication of proposed rules and related
- 13 proceedings on the board website; to require the board to
- 14 accept a criminal history check from an approved national
- 15 board under certain circumstances; and to cap certain fees
- 16 charged by the board.
- 17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:
- 18 Section 1. Pursuant to the Alabama Sunset Law, the
- 19 Sunset Committee recommends the continuance of the Alabama
- 20 Board of Massage Therapy until October 1, 2024, with the
- 21 additional recommendation for statutory change as set out in
- 22 Section 3.
- 23 Section 2. The existence and functioning of the Alabama
- 24 Board of Massage Therapy, created and functioning pursuant to
- 25 Sections 34-43-1 to 34-43-21, inclusive, Code of Alabama 1975,
- is continued until October 1, 2024, and those code sections
- are expressly preserved.
- 28 Section 3. Sections 34-43-6, 34-43-9, 34-43-11,



- 29 34-43-12, 34-43-13, 34-43-14, 34-43-15, 34-43-20, and 34-43-21
- of the Code of Alabama 1975, as amended by Act 2022-408, 2022
- 31 Regular Session, are amended to read as follows:
- 32 "\$34-43-6

47

48

49

50

51

52

53

54

55

- 33 (a) There is created the Alabama Board of Massage 34 Therapy. The purpose of the board is to protect the health, 35 safety, and welfare of the public by ensuring that licensed 36 massage therapists, massage therapy schools, and massage 37 therapy instructors meet prescribed standards of education, competency, and practice. To accomplish this mission, the 38 39 board shall establish standards pursuant to this chapter to complete all board functions in a timely and effective manner 40 41 and to provide open and immediate access to all relevant 42 public information. The board shall communicate its 43 responsibilities and services to the public as part of its consumer protection duties. The board shall develop and 44 45 implement a long range plan to ensure effective regulation and 46 consumer protection.
  - (b) The board shall consist of seven members appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the Senate. No member of the board shall serve more than two full consecutive terms. The members initially appointed to the board shall be appointed not later than July 16, 1996. Five of the members initially appointed to the board shall have been actively engaged in the practice of massage therapy for not less than three consecutive years prior to the date of their appointment to the board. Successor members to these initial five appointees shall be licensees of the board. Two members shall

58

59

60

61

62

63

64

65

66

67

68

69

70

71

72

73

74

75

76

77

78

79

80

81

82

83

84



57 be public members who shall not be licensed, nor have been licensed in the past, and shall not have any direct financial interest in the massage therapy profession. Each board member shall be a high school graduate or shall have received a graduate equivalency diploma. Each board member shall be selected upon personal merit and qualifications, not per membership or affiliation with an association. Each board member shall be a citizen of the United States and this state and a resident of this state for two years immediately preceding the appointment. The Governor shall coordinate his or her appointments to assure that the membership of the board shall be is inclusive and reflect reflects the racial, gender, geographic, urban/rural urban, rural, and economic diversity of the state. As the terms of members serving on the board on the effective date of the act amending this subsection expire, or as vacancies occur, new members shall be appointed so that not more than one member from each United States Congressional District in the state is appointed to serve at the same time.

- (c) Of the initial seven appointees to the board, three members shall be appointed for terms ending September 30, 1997, and four members shall be appointed for terms ending September 30, 1999. Thereafter, successors shall be appointed for terms of four years, each term expiring on September 30.
- (d) Vacancies on the board occurring prior to the expiration of a term shall be filled by the Governor within 30 days of the vacancy to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term. Each member of the board shall serve until his or her successor has been duly appointed and qualified.



85 (e) At the first meeting, and annually thereafter in 86 the month of October, the board shall elect a chair and vice 87 chair from its membership.

- days after the initial members are appointed. The board shall hold meetings during the year as it the board determines necessary, two of which shall be the biannual meetings for the purpose of reviewing license applications. Additional meetings may be held at the discretion of the chair or upon written request of any three members of the board. A quorum of the board shall be a majority of the current appointed board members. Upon the written request of any person, submitted to the board at least 24 hours in advance of a scheduled meeting, the meeting shall be recorded.
- (g) Board members shall not receive compensation for their services, but shall receive the same per diem and allowance as provided to state employees for each day the board meets and conducts business.
- (h) The board shall adopt the rules necessary to implement this chapter pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act. Proposed rules, and a schedule of proceedings relating to their adoption, shall be conspicuously posted and routinely updated on the website of the board.
- (i) The board may employ, and at its pleasure discharge, an executive secretary and other officers and employees which may be necessary, including an attorney, to implement this chapter. The board shall also outline the duties and fix the compensation and expense allowances of the



employees.

- (j) An affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the board shall be required to grant, suspend, or revoke a license to practice massage therapy or a license to operate a massage therapy establishment. The board may grant authority to the executive director to approve licenses.
- (k) The board shall be financed only from income accruing to it the board from fees, licenses, other charges and funds collected by it the board, and any monies that are appropriated to it the board by the Legislature.
- (1) Each board member shall be accountable to the Governor for the proper performance of his or her duties as a member of the board. The board shall report to the Governor annually and at other times as requested by the Governor. The Governor shall investigate any complaints or unfavorable reports concerning the actions of the board and take appropriate action thereon, including removal of any board member for misfeasance, malfeasance, neglect of duty, commission of a felony, incompetence, or permanent inability to perform official duties. A board member may be removed at the request of the board after failing to attend two consecutive properly noticed meetings.
- 135 (m) Members of the board are immune from liability for 136 all good faith acts performed in the execution of their duties 137 as members of the board.
- (n) Appointees to the board shall take the
  constitutional oath of office and file it in the office of the
  Governor before undertaking any duties as a board member. Upon



receiving the oath, the Governor shall issue a certificate of appointment to each appointee."

143 "\$34-43-9

144

145

146

147

- (a) A person desiring to be licensed as a massage therapist shall apply to the board on forms provided by the board. Unless licensed pursuant to subsection (b), applicants for licensure shall submit evidence satisfactory to the board that they have met each of the following requirements:
- 149 (1) Satisfactorily completed a minimum of 650 hours of 150 instruction. By rule of the board, the minimum 650 hours shall 151 consist of the following: 100 hours of anatomy and physiology to include 35 hours of myology, 15 hours of osteology, 10 152 153 hours of circulatory system, and 10 hours of nervous system, 154 with the remaining 30 hours to address other body systems at 155 the discretion of the school; 250 hours of basic massage therapy, the contradistinctions of massage therapy, and 156 157 related touch therapy modalities, to include a minimum of 50 158 hours of supervised massage; 50 hours to include business, 159 hydrotherapy, first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and professional ethics; and 250 hours of electives to be 160 161 determined by the school. The board may adopt a rule to 162 further increase the minimum number of hours of instruction 163 required for licensure, not to exceed the number of hours 164 recommended by the National Certification Board for 165 Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork. Before performing 166 therapeutic massage on an animal, a massage therapist shall graduate from a nationally approved program and complete at 167 168 least 100 hours of postgraduate training and education in



- animal anatomy, pathology, and physiology for the type of animal upon which the massage therapist wishes to perform therapeutic massage.
- 172 (2) Successfully passed a national standardized 173 examination approved by the board.
  - (3) Completed a criminal history check.
- 175 (4) Paid all applicable fees.

- (b) Notwithstanding the requirements in subdivisions

  (1) and (2) of subsection (a), the board may license an

  applicant if the applicant is licensed or registered in

  another state, which, in the opinion of the board, has

  standards of practice or licensure that are equal to or

  stricter than the requirements imposed by this chapter at the

  time of licensure in that state.
- (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section to the contrary, each applicant for licensure shall be a citizen of the United States or, if not a citizen of the United States, a person who is legally present in the United States with appropriate documentation from the federal government.
- (d) The board may shall notify each applicant that his or her application has been received and is pending and shall also notify each applicant of the acceptance or rejection of his or her application. If the application is rejected, the board shall list the reasons for rejection."
- 194 "\$34-43-11
- 195 (a) Establishments shall be licensed by the board. A
  196 sexually oriented business may not be licensed as an



197 establishment and shall not operate as an establishment 198 licensed pursuant to this chapter.

199

200

201

202

203

204

205

206

216

217

218

219

220

221

222

223

- (b) Establishments shall <u>contract with or employ</u> only licensed massage therapists to perform massage therapy.
- (c) Each establishment shall contract with or employ at least one licensed massage therapist who is registered with the board as the individual designated to ensure the establishment follows state law and administrative rules.
- (d) An establishment license issued pursuant to this chapter is not assignable or transferable.
- 207 (e) Each unlicensed massage therapist applying for an establishment license shall be subject to a criminal history 208 209 check or shall submit to the board proof of a completed 210 criminal history check performed through the National 211 Certification Board of Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork, or other national certifying board approved by the board, during 212 213 the previous two-year period. No licensed massage therapist 214 shall be subject to an additional criminal history check when 215 applying for an establishment license.
  - (f) An establishment owned by an individual who is not a resident of this state shall be subject to an initial inspection before licensure. The amount of the initial inspection fee shall be determined by rule of the board."

    "\$34-43-12
  - (a) Applications for <u>initial</u> licensure or renewal shall be on forms provided by the board and shall be accompanied by the proper fee. A two-by-two photograph, taken no more than six months earlier, showing a frontal view of the head and





shoulders of the applicant, shall be submitted with the application. All documents shall be submitted in English.

227

228

229

230

231

- (b) Each applicant for <u>initial</u> licensure shall be subject to a criminal history check. Refusal to consent to a criminal history check constitutes grounds for the board to deny the applicant's application for licensure.
- 232 (c) The board shall issue a license to each person who 233 qualifies to be a massage therapist and to each qualified 234 massage therapy establishment. To be qualified for a license 235 as a massage therapist the applicant shall successfully pass the examination, pay the examination fee, pass the criminal 236 237 history check pursuant to rules adopted by the board, pay the 238 criminal history check fee, and pay the license fee. A license 239 grants all professional rights, honors, and privileges 240 relating to the practice of massage therapy.
- 241 (d) Each licensed therapist shall display his or her
  242 license in the manner specified by the board. Each
  243 establishment shall post its license in plain sight and the
  244 license of each massage therapist who practices in the
  245 establishment.
- 246 (e) A license is the property of the board and shall be 247 surrendered upon demand of the board."

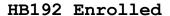
248 "\$34-43-13

249 (a) Each license shall be renewed biennially, on or
250 before the anniversary date, by forwarding to the board a
251 renewal application accompanied by the renewal fee. Each
252 applicant for renewal for licensure shall be subject to a



- 253 <u>criminal history check.</u> Any license not renewed biennially on 254 or before the anniversary date shall expire.
- 255 (b) Each licensee, upon application for renewal of a 256 license, shall do both of the following:
- 257 (1) Submit submit evidence of satisfactory completion
  258 of the continuing education requirements contained in Section
  259 34-43-21.
- 260 (2) Consent to a criminal history check. Refusal to
  261 consent to a criminal history check constitutes grounds for
  262 the board to deny the licensee's application for renewal of
  263 the license.
- (c) Licenses are valid for two years from the date of 264 265 issuance. An individual whose license has expired and who has 266 ceased to practice massage therapy for a period of not longer 267 than five years may have his or her license reinstated upon payment of a renewal fee and a late fee and submission of a 268 269 renewal application and evidence satisfactory to the board 270 that the applicant has fulfilled continuing education 271 requirements, passed a criminal history check pursuant to 272 rules adopted by the board, paid the criminal history check 273 fee, and passed the examination.
- 274 (d) Subsequent to an official complaint, the board may
  275 request a criminal background check of the licensee through
  276 the district attorney of the circuit in which the licensee is
  277 located."
- 278 "\$34-43-14
- 279 (a) By rule, the board shall assess and collect the 280 following fees not to exceed:







(1) Two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) One hundred 281 282 dollars (\$100) for the initial massage therapist license. (2) Three hundred dollars (\$300) One hundred dollars 283 284 (\$100) for all biennial license renewals postmarked or 285 received at the office of the board by the date—in on which 286 the license expires. (3) Three hundred dollars (\$300) One hundred dollars 287 288 (\$100) for the initial, and fifty dollars (\$50) for any 289 renewal of, an establishment license. (4) Five hundred dollars (\$500) One hundred fifty 290 291 dollars (\$150) for the initial registration, and any renewal registration, as a massage therapy school in this state. 292 293 (5) Two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) One hundred 294 dollars (\$100) to register and renew registration as a massage 295 therapy instructor in this state. (6) One hundred fifty dollars (\$150) Seventy-five 296 297 dollars (\$75) to reactivate an expired license. (7) One hundred dollars (\$100) Twenty-five dollars 298 299 (\$25) shall be added to all license fees not post-marked or 300 received by the board before the expiration date of the 301 license. (8) Twenty-five dollars (\$25) to verify a license. 302 303 (9) Twenty-five dollars (\$25) (8) Ten dollars (\$10) for 304 a duplicate license certificate or a name change on a license 305 certificate. The board may issue a duplicate certificate for 306 each establishment on file with the board where the massage therapist practices massage therapy. The board may issue 307 additional duplicate certificates only after receiving a sworn



letter from the massage therapist that the an original certificate was lost, stolen, or destroyed. The records of the board shall reflect that a duplicate certificate was issued.

312 (10) A fee, set by the board, for the criminal history
313 check.

- 314 (11) A fee, set by the board, for an establishment
  315 inspection.
  - (b) Necessary administrative fees may be charged by the board, including, but not limited to, reasonable costs for copying, labels, and lists. Examination and license fees may be adjusted as by rule of the board shall deem appropriate.
  - revenue trust fund in the State Treasury to be known as the Alabama Board of Massage Therapy Fund. All receipts collected by the board under this chapter—are to\_shall be deposited in this fund and used only to carry out this chapter.—Such receipts Receipts shall be disbursed only by warrant of the state Comptroller, upon itemized vouchers approved by the chair of the board; provided that no. No funds shall be withdrawn except as budgeted and allotted according to the provisions of Sections 41-4-80 to 41-4-96, inclusive, 41-19-1, and 41-19-12, as amended, and only in amounts as stipulated in the general appropriations bill or other appropriations bills."
- 333 "\$34-43-15

334 (a) Any person may file with the board a written 335 complaint regarding an allegation of impropriety by a 336 licensee, establishment, or person. Complaints shall be made



in the manner prescribed by the board. Complaints received by

338 the board shall be referred to a standing investigative

339 committee consisting of a board member, the Executive

340 Director, the board attorney, and the board investigator. If

no probable cause is found, the investigative committee may

dismiss the charges and prepare a statement, in writing, of

343 the reasons for the decision.

- 344 (b) If probable cause is found, the board shall
  345 initiate an administrative proceeding. Upon a finding that the
  346 licensee has committed any of the following instances of
  347 misconduct, the board may suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue
  348 or renew a license or impose a civil penalty after notice and
  349 opportunity for a hearing pursuant to the Administrative
- 350 Procedure Act:

341

- 351 (1) The license was obtained by means of fraud,
  352 misrepresentation, or concealment of material facts, including
  353 making a false statement on an application or any other
  354 document required by the board for licensure.
- 355 (2) The licensee sold or bartered or offered to sell or 356 barter a license for a massage therapist or a massage therapy 357 establishment.
- 358 (3) The licensee has engaged in unprofessional conduct
  359 that has endangered or is likely to endanger the health,
  360 safety, and welfare of the public, as defined by the rules of
  361 the board. As used in this subdivision, unprofessional conduct
  362 includes, but is not limited to, allowing any individual to
  363 remain in a massage therapy establishment overnight.
- 364 (4) The licensee has been convicted of a felony or of



- any crime arising out of or connected with the practice of massage therapy.
- 367 (5) The licensee has violated or aided and abetted in the violation of this chapter.
- 369 (6) The licensee is adjudicated as mentally incompetent 370 by a court of law.
- 371 (7) The licensee uses controlled substances or 372 habitually and excessively uses alcohol.
- 373 (8) The licensee engaged in false, deceptive, or 374 misleading advertising.
- 375 (9) The licensee engaged in or attempted to or offered 376 to engage a client in sexual activity, including, but not 377 limited to, genital contact, within the client-massage 378 therapist relationship.
- 379 (10) The licensee has knowingly allowed the massage 380 therapy establishment to be used as an overnight sleeping 381 accommodation.
- 382 (11) The licensee had a license revoked, suspended, or 383 denied in any other territory or jurisdiction of the United 384 States for any act described in this section.
- 385 (c)(1) A person governed by this chapter who has a 386 reasonable belief that another massage therapist has engaged 387 in or attempted to or offered to engage a client in sexual 388 activity, as provided in subdivision (9) of subsection (b) (9), 389 shall inform the board in writing within 30 calendar days from 390 the date the person discovers this activity. Upon finding that a person has violated this subsection, the board shall alert 391 local law enforcement and may do any of the following: 392





a. Impose an administrative fine of not more than

twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) ten thousand dollars

(\$10,000) according to a disciplinary infraction fine schedule

adopted by rule of the board.

- b. Suspend or revoke the person's license to practice
  massage therapy.
- (2) Upon a finding that a person has violated this subsection three or more times, the board shall impose a mandatory license suspension for a period of no less than three years and a fine of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).
- (d) Any person who has been convicted of, or entered a plea of nolo contendere to, a crime or offense involving prostitution or other sexual offenses offense is ineligible to hold a license as a massage therapist for a period of at least three years after the entry of the conviction or plea. The board retains the right to revoke a license indefinitely if the licensee is proven guilty of a crime or of sexual misconduct. Reinstatement of licensure is contingent upon proof of weekly counseling by a licensed professional counselor.
- (e) An establishment where a person has been convicted
  of, or entered a plea of nolo contendere to, an offense
  involving prostitution or any other type of sexual offense may
  not receive a license for a massage therapy establishment for
  a period of three years after the date of conviction or entry
  of the plea. The board shall revoke the establishment license
  of any establishment which the board determines is a sexually



421	oriented business. The board may revoke an establishment	
422	license if a person is convicted of, or enters a plea of no	olo
423	contendere to, any crime involving prostitution or any other	er

424 sexual offense against a client which occurred on the premises

of the establishment. The violation is attached to the address

426 of the establishment.

- (f) (1) Upon finding a person, who is governed by this chapter, performing massage therapy without having obtained a license, the board may do any of the following:
- a. Impose an administrative fine of not more than

  twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) ten thousand dollars

  (\$10,000).
- 433 b. Issue a cease and desist order.
- c. Petition the circuit court of the county where the act occurred to enforce the cease and desist order and collect the assessed fine.
- 437 (2) Any person aggrieved by any adverse action of the
  438 board must shall appeal the action to the Circuit Court of
  439 Montgomery County in accordance with the Alabama
  440 Administrative Procedure Act.
- 441 (g) The board shall present any incident of misconduct 442 to the local district attorney for review and appropriate 443 action.
- 444 (h) The board may adopt rules to implement and 445 administer this section."
- 446 "\$34-43-20
- 447 (a) To be approved by the board, a massage therapy
  448 school shall meet all of the following requirements:



- 449 (1) File a completed application prescribed by the 450 board with the board and pay a registration fee as specified 451 in Section 34-43-14.
- 452 (2) Provide documentation of a curriculum which 453 includes a minimum number of required hours of instruction in 454 the subjects required pursuant to Section 34-43-9.
- 455 (3) Register annually with the board by filing a
  456 renewal form, accompanied with by the renewal fee pursuant to
  457 Section 34-43-14, and submit a current curriculum and a list
  458 of instructors.
- (b) Every instructor teaching course work titled

  massage therapy at a board approved school located in Alabama

  shall be licensed in Alabama as a massage therapist and

  registered as a massage therapy instructor. Instructors who

  are not teaching massage therapy do not need to be registered.

  Any adjunct instructors shall be dually licensed in the state

  where they reside, or be nationally certified, or both.
  - (c) The board shall register as a massage therapy instructor any applicant who meets all of the following requirements:
- 469 (1) Is currently licensed as a massage therapist in 470 Alabama.

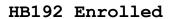
466

467

- 471 (2) Has filed a completed application prescribed by the 472 board and paid a one-time application fee pursuant to Section 473 34-43-14.
- 474 (3) Documents three years of experience in the practice 475 of massage therapy. The documentation may be considered by the 476 board on a case-by-case basis.



(4) Any other requirements adopted by rule of the	
board."	
<b>"</b> §34-43-21	
(a) The board is subject to the Alabama Sunset Law	of
1981, and is classified as an enumerated agency pursuant t	10
Section 41-20-3. The board shall automatically terminate of	n
October 1, 2007, and every four years thereafter, unless	
continued pursuant to the Alabama Sunset Law.	
(b) The board shall adopt a program of continuing	
education for licensees which shall be a requisite for the	5
renewal of licenses issued pursuant to this chapter and no	<u>ot</u>
exceed the requirements of a board approved nationally	
recognized board certification organization such as the	
National Certification Board of Therapeutic Massage and	
Bodywork."	
Section 4. This act shall become effective on July	1,
2023, following its passage and approval by the Governor,	01
its otherwise becoming law.	





	Speaker of the House of Re	epresentatives	
	President and Presiding Offic	cer of the Senate	
	House of Represent	atives	
	I hereby certify that the with:	in Act originated i	
was pas	sed by the House 06-Apr-23.		
	John Treadwell		
	Cler	î K	
_		<del>_</del>	
Conata	10-7	Amended and Pa	
Senate _	18-Apr-23	- Amended and Pa	
House _	03-May-23	Passed, as ame	
	03 May 23	by Conference Co	
		ny conterence co	
Senate	06-Jun-23	Passed, as ame	
	00 0un 25	by Conference Co	
		by conterence co	