

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2025 REGULAR SESSION

Enrolled

Senate Bill 496

BY SENATORS THORNE AND RUCKER

[Passed April 10, 2025; in effect 90 days from passage (July 9, 2025)]

1 AN ACT to amend and reenact §30-37-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating
2 to massage therapists; and clarifying the definition of "massage therapy".

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 37. MASSAGE THERAPISTS.

§30-37-2. Definitions.

1 (a) "Board" means the West Virginia Massage Therapy Licensure Board.

2 (b) "Massage therapist" means a person licensed to practice the health care service of
3 massage therapy under this article who practices or administers massage therapy to a client of
4 either gender for compensation. No person licensed by the massage therapy licensure board may
5 be referred to as a primary care provider nor be permitted to use such designation.

6 (c) "Massage therapy" means a health care service which is a scientific and skillful
7 manipulation of soft tissue for therapeutic or remedial purposes, specifically for improving muscle
8 tone, circulation, promoting health and physical well-being. Massage therapy includes massage,
9 myotherapy, massotherapy, bodywork, bodywork therapy, or therapeutic massage including
10 hydrotherapy, superficial hot and cold applications, vibration and topical applications or other
11 therapies which involve manipulation of the muscle and connective tissue of the body, for the
12 purpose of enhancing health, reducing stress, improving circulation, aiding muscle relaxation,
13 increasing range of motion, or relieving neuro-muscular pain. Massage therapy does not include
14 diagnosis or service which requires a license to practice medicine or surgery, osteopathic
15 medicine, chiropractic, or podiatry, and does not include service performed by nurses,
16 occupational therapists, physical therapists, or reflexologists who act under their own professional
17 license, certificate, or registration, or energy work practitioners (including reiki, qigong, and sound
18 healing).

19 (d) "Massage establishment" means a place of business wherein massage therapy is
20 practiced, with a physical site or premise, including mobile sites, licensed as required by this

21 article, in which licensed massage therapists are employees or contractors practicing massage
22 therapy on clients.

23 (e) "Sole practitioner" means a licensed massage therapist who is licensed pursuant to
24 this article, who is not an employee or contractor of the sole practitioner or an establishment, and
25 who provides massage therapy to clients at a specific location including, but not limited to, a rental
26 space, home office space, offsite, or onsite space.

The Clerk of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Delegates hereby
certify that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

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Clerk of the Senate

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Clerk of the House of Delegates

Originated in the Senate.

In effect 90 days from passage.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House of Delegates

The within is this the.....
Day of, 2025.

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Governor