

## Senate Bill 40

### Massage Therapy Licensure Legislation for 2015

#### Talking Points

Senate Bill 40, the Massage Therapy Licensure Act, would set minimum training requirements, define a scope of practice, stop any efforts by other professions to control the future of massage therapy, provide an avenue for consumer complaints, and preempt local regulations.

If passed, the bill would require massage therapists to become licensed by state under the Kansas State Board of Nursing, and would establish a Massage Therapy Advisory Committee to represent massage therapists and to advise the Board in carrying out the provisions of the Act.

The bill includes a generous grandfathering provision for current massage therapists. For a period of two years, existing practitioners would be able to qualify for a state license by meeting **one** of the following criteria:

1. Has completed a massage program consisting of a minimum 500 hours; *or*
2. Has completed a massage program of at least 300 hours and has practiced massage for a period of 3 years; *or*
3. Has practiced massage for at least 3 years prior to the date of application; *or*
4. Has been an active member of a national massage therapist organization (such as ABMP) which provides professional liability insurance for at least a year; *or*
5. Has passed a nationally recognized examination (such as the MBLEx or NCBTMB exam) approved by the board.

**After** two years, all NEW applicants only will have to demonstrate they have completed a massage program consisting of at least 500 hours and passed an examination approved by the board.

Several practices would be exempt from licensure as long as practitioners do not practice, or advertise that they practice massage therapy, including: reflexology, movement educators (Feldenkrais, Trager, and Body-Mind Centering), energy work (Reiki, Shiatsu, Asian Bodywork, and Polarity), and structural integrators (Rolfing and Hellerwork).

The licensing fee would be no more than \$80 every two years and continuing education requirements would be limited to no more than 6 hours per year. Massage therapists would be required to carry professional liability insurance.