

State of Arkansas
94th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2023

As Engrossed: H2/2/23 H2/7/23
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1115

By: Representative Maddox
By: Senator Rice

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE DEFINITION AND REQUIREMENTS OF A
MASTER MASSAGE THERAPIST WITHIN THE MASSAGE THERAPY
ACT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE DEFINITION AND REQUIREMENTS
OF A MASTER MASSAGE THERAPIST WITHIN THE
MASSAGE THERAPY ACT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-86-102(8), concerning the definition of "master massage therapist" within the Massage Therapy Act, is amended to read as follows:

(8)(A) "Master massage therapist" means a person who:

(i) Before July 1, 2010, is a licensed and registered massage therapist who has completed no fewer than two hundred fifty (250) hours of practical experience as a massage therapist, which may be gained in part or in whole as an assistant to an instructor in a massage school and has completed no less than one hundred twenty-five (125) continuing education hours as approved by the department;

(ii) Either:

(a) On or after July 1, 2010, has:

(1) Been ~~been~~ an active and practicing licensee and registered as a massage therapist for a period of not less than two (2) years preceding the application for an upgrade to master massage



therapist; and

~~(iii)(2)~~ ~~On or after July 1, 2010, in~~ In addition to the experience under subdivision (8)(A)(i) of this section, ~~has~~ completed no less than one hundred twenty-five (125) continuing education hours as approved by the department; ~~and~~ or

(b) On or after July 1, 2023, has:

(1) Been an active practicing licensee and registered as a massage therapist for the period of not less than twelve (12) months preceding the application for an upgrade to master massage therapist; and

(2) Completed not less than three hundred (300) hours of advanced coursework in massage therapy as part of an Associates of Applied Science degree of massage therapy from an accredited college or university; and

~~(iv)(iii)~~ (iii) Is determined by the department to be qualified to be licensed and registered to practice massage therapy.

(B) "Master massage therapist" includes a person who has previously obtained the master massage therapist license under a prior state law.

(C) Master massage therapists may:

(i) Instruct continuing education programs approved by the department;

(ii) Instruct any of the procedures in subdivision (3) of this section; and

(iii) Instruct, as directed by a massage therapy instructor, basic curricula in a massage therapy school registered by the department as required by § 17-86-306(e);

/s/Maddox

APPROVED: 3/2/23