

State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1215

By: Representative Love

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAWS REGARDING THE PRACTICE OF
MESSAGE THERAPY TO INCLUDE THE PRACTICE OF CUPPING;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAWS REGARDING THE PRACTICE
OF MESSAGE THERAPY TO INCLUDE THE
PRACTICE OF CUPPING.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-86-102(3), concerning the definition of "massage therapy" within the Massage Therapy Act, is amended to read as follows:

(3)(A) "Massage therapy" means the treatment of soft tissues, which may include skin, fascia, and muscles and their dysfunctions for therapeutic purposes of establishing and maintaining good physical condition, comfort, and relief of pain.

(B) "Massage therapy" is a healthcare service that includes gliding, kneading, percussion, compression, vibration, friction, nerve strokes, and stretching the tissue.

(C) "Massage therapy" also means to engage in the practice of any of the following procedures:

(i) Massage therapy techniques and procedures, either hands-on or with mechanical devices;

(ii) Therapeutic application and use of oils, herbal or chemical preparations, lubricants, nonprescription creams, lotions,



scrubs, powders, and other spa services;

(iii) Therapeutic application of hot or cold packs;

(iv) Hydrotherapy techniques;

(v) Heliotherapy, which may include mechanical devices, heat lamps, and other devices;

(vi) Electrotherapy; ~~and~~

(vii) Any hands-on bodywork techniques and procedures rising to the level of the techniques and procedures intended to be regulated under this chapter and not covered under specific licensing laws of other boards; and

(viii) Cupping therapy.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 17-102-311 is amended to read as follows:
17-102-311. Exemptions.

(a) ~~Nothing in this~~ This chapter ~~is intended to~~ does not limit, interfere with, or prevent any other class of licensed ~~health-care~~ healthcare professionals from practicing acupuncture and related techniques when permitted by its state licensing board.

(b) However, a chiropractic physician ~~shall be entitled to~~ may practice acupuncture as part of chiropractic practice after completing an educational program in acupuncture from a college accredited by the Council on Chiropractic Education.

(c) A massage therapist may practice cupping therapy as part of massage therapy after completing an educational program in cupping therapy.