

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas  
95th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2025

As Engrossed: H4/9/25

## A Bill

SENATE BILL 168

By: Senator Rice

By: Representative K. Brown

### For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A STATE EXAMINATION FOR LICENSURE  
OF MASSAGE THERAPISTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

### Subtitle

*TO ESTABLISH A STATE EXAMINATION FOR  
LICENSURE OF MASSAGE THERAPISTS.*

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 17, Chapter 86, Subchapter 3, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

17-86-315. State examination for licensure.

(a)(1) The Department of Health shall administer a state examination for licensure as a massage therapist that shall be administered at the time and place designated by the department.

(2) The state examination under this section is an additional option to licensure in this state and does not replace or negate a national examination.

(3) The state examination under this section shall be offered as an optional pathway to licensure and shall only be offered to unlicensed graduates of an approved massage therapy school or students enrolled in a massage therapy apprenticeship program in this state who have completed the educational requirements under § 17-86-306(e).

(b)(1) The state examination shall be a one hundred (100) question examination and be proportionate to educational requirements and classroom hours based on the Massage Therapy Act, § 17-86-101 et seq.

(2) The state examination shall include:



- (A) Nine (9) questions concerning anatomy and physiology;
- (B) Nine (9) questions concerning kinesiology;
- (C) Twenty (20) questions concerning pathology, contraindications, and special populations;
- (D) Forty-five (45) questions concerning massage techniques;
- (E) Five (5) questions concerning hydrotherapy, electrotherapy, and heliotherapy;
- (F) Five (5) questions concerning hygiene and infection control; and
- (G) Seven (7) questions concerning massage therapy law, business management, and personal ethics.

(c) A passing grade of seventy percent (70%) on the state examination is required for licensure.

(d) The state examination shall not be computer adaptive.

(e)(1) The department may require massage therapy instructors who currently provide instruction in an approved massage therapy school in this state or a massage therapy apprenticeship program in this state to submit examination questions for the state examination.

(2) An examination question submitted by a massage therapy instructor shall:

(A)(i) Be derived from a textbook that the massage therapy instructor is currently utilizing to provide instruction to massage therapy students under subdivision (e) of this section.

(ii) Material from the Massage and Bodywork Licensing Examination shall not be considered a textbook under this section; and

(B) Include:

(i) The title of the textbook;

(ii) The author of the textbook;

(iii) The edition of the textbook;

(iv) The page number and line number from which the examination question was derived or obtained; and

(v) The date when the examination question was created.

*/s/Rice*