

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Health Policy

BILL: SB 1068

INTRODUCER: Senator Latvala

SUBJECT: Licensed Massage Therapists

DATE: March 10, 2014

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Peterson</u>	<u>Stovall</u>	<u>HP</u>	<u>Pre-meeting</u>
2.	_____	_____	<u>AP</u>	_____

I. Summary:

SB 1068 requires applicants for licensure as a massage therapist and certain persons with ownership in or management responsibilities for a massage establishment to submit to background screening. The bill requires the Board of Massage Therapy (board) to deny an application for licensure if any person who is screened is determined to have been convicted of or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to specified criminal acts. The bill also requires the Department of Health (DOH) to suspend the license of a massage therapist who it learns has been convicted of or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to one of the specified criminal acts.

II. Present Situation:

Florida Regulation of Massage Therapists and Massage Establishments

Massage therapists and massage establishments in Florida are regulated by the Board of Massage Therapy, within the DOH, under the Massage Practice Act, chapter 480, Florida Statutes, and Rule chapter 64B7, Florida Administrative Code. A person must be licensed as a massage therapist to practice massage for compensation, unless otherwise specifically exempted under the Massage Practice Act.¹ In order to be licensed as a massage therapist, an applicant must:²

- Be at least 18 years of age or have received a high school diploma or graduate equivalency diploma;
- Complete a course of study at a massage school approved by the board or apprenticeship program; and,
- Pass an examination.

¹ s. 480.047(1)(a), F.S.; s. 480.034, F.S.

² s. 480.041 and 480.042, F.S.

Licensed massage therapists may practice in a licensed massage establishment, at a client's residence or office, or at a sports event, convention or trade show.³ Sexual misconduct, defined as a violation of the professional relationship through the use of such relationship to engage or attempt to engage in sexual activity outside the scope of the profession, is strictly prohibited.⁴

Section 480.43, F.S., provides that a massage establishment license is required at any facility where massage therapy services are offered by a licensed massage therapist. It also provides that massage establishment licenses may not be transferred to a new owner, but may be transferred to a new location, subject to certain conditions. The board's rules address insurance, compliance with building codes, and safety and sanitary requirements,⁵ and require that massage therapy establishments be inspected prior to initial licensure and annually, thereafter.⁶

The next biennial renewal date for licenses issued under the Massage Practice Act is August 31, 2015.⁷

The Care Provider Background Screening Clearinghouse

In 2012, the Legislature created the Care Provider Background Screening Clearinghouse (clearinghouse). The clearinghouse establishes a single data source for background screening results of persons required to be screened by law for employment in positions that provide services to children, the elderly, and disabled individuals.⁸ The clearinghouse also allows the results of criminal history checks to be shared among specified state agencies,⁹ thereby reducing duplicative screenings for individuals requiring multiple screenings by multiple agencies.

Fingerprints submitted for inclusion in the clearinghouse are sent to the FDLE electronically as a scanned image and retained by the FDLE for 5 years, subject to further retention on a renewal basis.¹⁰ The FDLE searches the retained prints against incoming Florida arrests and must report the results to the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) for inclusion in the clearinghouse, thus avoiding the need for future state screens and related fees. A digital photograph of the person screened is taken at the time the fingerprints are taken and retained by the FDLE in electronic format, as well. This enables accurate identification of the person when he or she changes jobs or is otherwise presented with a situation requiring screening. Retained fingerprints must be resubmitted for a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) national criminal history check every 5 years until such time as the FBI implements its own retention program. Once the FBI implements its retention program, the need for any future screening by the specified agencies of persons in the clearinghouse will be eliminated.¹¹

³ s. 480.046(1)(n), F.S.

⁴ s. 480.0485, F.S.

⁵ Rule 64B7-26.003, F.A.C.

⁶ See Rules 64B7-26.004 and 64B7-26.004, F.A.C.

⁷ Florida Department of Health, Board of Massage Therapy, *Renewal Information* <http://floridasmassagetherapy.gov/renewals/> (last visited March 10, 2014).

⁸ s. 435.12(1), F.S.

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ s. 435.12(2)(a), F.S.

¹¹ Florida Senate, *CS/CS/SB 320*, 8 (Feb. 28, 2012), *available at* <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2012/0320/Analyses/2012s0320.bha.PDF> (last visited March 7, 2014).

The clearinghouse is in the process of being implemented by six designated state agencies. Currently, the clearinghouse is active and being used by the AHCA and the DOH.¹²

Health Practitioner Background Screening

Current law requires physicians, chiropractors, podiatrists, nurses, specified persons in connection with an application for a pharmacy permit, and persons licensed or registered under part XIV of ch. 468, F.S.,¹³ to submit to background screening as a condition of licensure¹⁴ and, in some cases, licensure renewal.¹⁵ The fingerprints of all of these practitioners are currently entered into the clearinghouse.¹⁶ In addition, some health care practitioners may be required to undergo background screening as a condition of employment or volunteer service in a facility or with an organization that provides care to children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities.¹⁷

Massage therapists and the owners or operators of massage establishments do not undergo a criminal background screening prior to licensure. Applicants are required to self-report criminal offenses on their applications¹⁸ and licensees must self-report subsequent violations to the DOH within 30 days after conviction.¹⁹

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 amends s. 456.0135, F.S., to add applicants for licensure under ch. 480, F.S., to the list of applicants required to provide electronic fingerprints to the FDLE for an FBI national criminal history check. The section also adds language requiring that all fingerprints submitted to the FDLE must be retained by the FDLE and enrolled in the national retained print arrest notification program. The DOH is not required to request that the FDLE forward retained prints of an applicant for renewal to the FBI if the fingerprints are already enrolled in the national program. The bill adds a specific requirement for the DOH to submit the fingerprints of all practitioners subject to this section to the clearinghouse.

Section 2 amends s. 456.074, F.S., to require the DOH to issue an emergency order suspending the license of a massage therapist when the DOH learns that the licensee has been convicted or found guilty of, or has entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a felony offense under any of the following Florida laws or similar provision in another jurisdiction:

- s. 787.01, F.S., relating to kidnapping.
- s. 787.02, F.S., relating to false imprisonment.
- s. 787.025, F.S., relating to luring or enticing a child.
- s. 787.06, F.S., relating to human trafficking.
- s. 787.07, F.S., relating to human smuggling.

¹² See Agency for Health Care Administration, *Care Provider Background Screening Clearinghouse* http://ahca.myflorida.com/MCHO/Central_Services/Background_Screening/BGS_results.shtml, (last visited March 8, 2014).

¹³ Orthotists, prosthetists, pedorthists, orthotic fitters, orthotic fitter assistants, and orthotist and prosthetist residents.

¹⁴ See ss. 458.311(1)(g), 459.0055(1)(j), 460.406(2)(f), 461.006(1)€, 464.008(1)(b), 464.009(4), 465.022

¹⁵ ss. 456.039(4)(a), F.S.

¹⁶ Conversation with Jennifer Wenhold, Florida Department of Health (March 7, 2014).

¹⁷ See, e.g., s. 943.0542, F.S.

¹⁸ Florida Department of Health, *SB 1086 Bill Analysis* (Feb. 18, 2014) (on file with the Senate Health Policy Committee).

¹⁹ s. 456.072(1)(x), F.S.

- s. 794.011, F.S., relating to sexual battery.
- s. 794.08, F.S., relating to female genital mutilation.
- s. 796.03, F.S., relating to procuring a person under the age of 18 for prostitution.
- s. 796.035, F.S., relating to the selling or buying of minors into prostitution.
- s. 800.04, F.S., relating to lewd or lascivious offenses committed upon or in the presence of persons less than 16 years of age.
- s. 825.1025(2)(b), F.S., relating to lewd or lascivious offenses committed upon or in the presence of an elderly or disabled person.
- s. 827.071, F.S., relating to sexual performance by a child.
- s. 847.0133, F.S., relating to the protection of minors.
- s. 847.0135, F.S., relating to computer pornography.
- s. 847.0138, F.S., relating to the transmission of material harmful to minors to a minor by electronic device or equipment.
- s. 847.0145, F.S., relating to the selling or buying of minors.

Section 3 amends s. 480.041, F.S., to require applicants for licensure as a massage therapist to submit to background screening. Massage therapists licensed before July 1, 2014, must submit to background screening by January 31, 2015. The board is required to deny an application for licensure under the same circumstances and for the same crimes enumerated in section 2 above.

Section 4 amends s. 480.043, F.S., to require a person who has an ownership interest in a massage establishment or, for corporations submitting proof of at least \$250,000 in business assets, the owner, officer, or manager of the massage establishment to submit to background screening. The board is required to deny an application if the applicant; a person with an ownership interest in the massage establishment; or for a corporation with assets exceeding \$250,000, the owner, officer, or individual directly involved in the management of the massage establishment has been convicted or found guilty of, or has entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a felony offense under any of the following Florida laws or similar provision in another jurisdiction:

- s. 787.01, F.S., relating to kidnapping.
- s. 787.02, F.S., relating to false imprisonment.
- s. 787.025, F.S., relating to luring or enticing a child.
- s. 787.06, F.S., relating to human trafficking.
- s. 787.07, F.S., relating to human smuggling.
- s. 794.011, F.S., relating to sexual battery.
- s. 794.08, F.S., relating to female genital mutilation.
- s. 796.03, F.S., relating to procuring a person under the age of 18 for prostitution.
- s. 796.035, F.S., relating to the selling or buying of minors into prostitution.
- s. 800.04, F.S., relating to lewd or lascivious offenses committed upon or in the presence of persons less than 16 years of age.
- s. 825.1025(2)(b), F.S., relating to lewd or lascivious offenses committed upon or in the presence of an elderly or disabled person.
- s. 827.071, F.S., relating to sexual performance by a child.
- s. 847.0133, F.S., relating to the protection of minors.
- s. 847.0135, F.S., relating to computer pornography.

- s. 847.0138, F.S., relating to the transmission of material harmful to minors to a minor by electronic device or equipment.
- s. 847.0145, F.S., relating to the selling or buying of minors.

An owner, or for corporations with assets of at least \$250,000, the owner, officer, or individual directly involved in the management of a massage establishment licensed before July 1, 2014, must submit to the background screening by January 1, 2015.

Section 5 amends s. 480.0465, F.S., to conform a cross-reference.

Section 6 provides an effective date of July 1, 2014.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

All licensed massage therapists and specified persons associated with currently licensed massage establishments will be required to submit to background screening by January 1, 2015. The DOH estimates these numbers at 40,392 and 23,486, respectively. The DOH estimates the annual number of new applicants for massage therapy licenses or massage establishment licenses who will be subject to the requirement at 4,281 and 1,615, respectively. The combined cost of a state and national background screen, 5-year state fingerprint retention, and FBI enrollment totals \$77.50. Total private sector impact, therefore, is estimated at \$4, 950,545 in the first year and \$456,940 in subsequent 2 fiscal years.²⁰

²⁰ Florida Department of Law Enforcement, *SB 1086 Bill Analysis* (March 6, 2014) (on file with the Senate Health Policy Committee).

C. Government Sector Impact:

The state's share of the fees collected (and described above) is estimated at \$3,066,144 in the first year and \$283,008 annually thereafter.²¹

The FDLE anticipates requesting one FTE to assist with the fingerprint retention processing required by the bill, but will handle the criminal record checks with existing staff. The projected cost of the new FTE is \$63,520 in 2014-2015 fiscal year and \$59,747 in the subsequent 2 fiscal years.

The DOH anticipates the background screening of current licensees will result in expenses associated with enforcement actions of \$145,000, which includes four OPS Investigation Specialists for a period of 6 months and one Senior Attorney for 1 year, but that those costs can be absorbed into current budget authority.²²

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

Lines 170 – 173 refer to “or a corporation that has more than \$250,000 of business assets in this state, or the owner, officer or individual directly involved in the management of such massage establishment” that has committed a disqualifying offense. It appears this is a drafting error and that the intent was to say “for a corporation that has more than \$250,000 of business assets in this state, the owner, officer or individual directly involved in the management of such massage establishment.”

On line 169, the word “permit” should be changed to “license.”

The DOH has raised the following concerns:

- Line 77, the term “upon receipt of information” is vague.
- Line 163, the proof required to demonstrate assets of \$250,000 or more is not clear. The DOH requests rulemaking authority.

VII. Related Issues:

Section 2 creates an obligation for the DOH to issue an emergency order suspending the license of a massage therapist for violations of specified crimes. It may be appropriate to give the DOH authority also to suspend the license of a massage establishment when a person who submitted to background screening in connection with the license violates one of these same laws.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 456.0135, 456.074, 480.041, 480.043, and 480.0465.

²¹ *Id.*

²² *Supra* note 18.

IX. Additional Information:

- A. **Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

- B. **Amendments:**

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.
