

**SENATE BILL NO. 2099  
with House Amendments**

Sixty-first  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**SENATE BILL NO. 2099**

Introduced by

Human Services Committee

(At the request of the State Board of Massage)

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact subsection 5 of section 43-25-02 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to the definition of remote education; and to amend and reenact  
3 subsection 2 of section 43-25-02 and sections 43-25-03, 43-25-04, 43-25-05, 43-25-05.1,  
4 43-25-06, 43-25-07, 43-25-09, 43-25-10, 43-25-13, 43-25-14, and 43-25-18 of the North Dakota  
5 Century Code, relating to regulating the practice of massage.

6 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

7 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 2 of section 43-25-02 of the North Dakota  
8 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

9 2. "Massage" means the scientific and systematic manipulation of the soft tissues of  
10 the human body through any manual or mechanical means, using western and  
11 eastern modalities, including superficial hot and cold applications, hydrotherapy,  
12 reflexology, shiatsu, acupressure, and the use of salts or lubricants. ~~"Massage"~~  
13 ~~does not include diagnosing or treating diseases, manipulating the spine or other~~  
14 ~~joints, or prescribing or administering vitamins for the purpose of promoting,~~  
15 maintaining, and restoring the health and well-being of the client. The term  
16 includes assessment, effleurage (stroking or gliding), petrissage (kneading),  
17 tapotement (percussion), compression, vibration, friction, and active or passive  
18 range of motion and stretching either by hand, forearm, elbow, knee, foot, or with  
19 mechanical appliances for the purpose of body massage. Except as provided in  
20 this chapter, "massage" does not include diagnosis or other services that require a  
21 license to practice medicine or surgery, osteopathic medicine, chiropractic,  
22 occupational therapy, physical therapy, or podiatry and does not include service  
23 provided by professionals who act under their state-issued professional license,  
24 certification, or registration.

1           **SECTION 2.** Subsection 5 of section 43-25-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
2 created and enacted as follows:

3           5. "Remote education" means asynchronous education that is not in person, live, or  
4           presented in real time.

5           **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-25-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7           **43-25-03. Massage therapists to be licensed.** A person may not:

- 8           1. Practice massage, attempt to practice massage, or teach massage techniques, for  
9           a fee or gratuity or as a free demonstration, without a license issued under this  
10           chapter;
- 11           2. Operate or conduct a massage establishment unless it meets the requirements  
12           adopted by the board;
- 13           3. Employ an unlicensed person to perform a massage; or
- 14           4. Use the title "massage therapist" or the abbreviations "L.M.T." or "M.T." or terms of  
15           similar meaning without a license issued by the board.

16           **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-25-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
17 amended and reenacted as follows:

18           **43-25-04. Exemptions.** The following persons are exempt from this chapter:

- 19           1. Schools that furnish massage services to their student athletes.
- 20           2. Any student of a school of massage who is practicing massage in the course of  
21           fulfilling a required massage therapy practicum under the direct supervision of a  
22           licensed massage therapist or in the course of participating in a school-supervised  
23           student massage clinic under the direct supervision of a licensed massage  
24           therapist. Students may practice homework unsupervised on other students,  
25           family, or friends, but no fee or tip may be charged or accepted. These massages  
26           may only be performed at the school or at the residence of the student, family  
27           member, or friend.
- 28           3. Any individual who is engaged in a profession or occupation for which the  
29           individual is licensed by this state, as long as the individual's activities are  
30           performed in the course of the bona fide practice of the individual's profession or  
31           occupation and as long as the individual does not represent to the public that the

1 individual is a massage therapist or is engaged in the practice of massage and  
2 does not perform massage while working in a massage establishment.

3 4. A health spa or similar business to the extent the spa or business is performing  
4 superficial applications used for beautification or health of the skin, including salt  
5 glows and contouring.

6 5. Any individual instructor demonstrating massage techniques as a component of a  
7 board-approved seminar.

8 **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-25-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
9 amended and reenacted as follows:

10 **43-25-05. Board of massage - Terms.** The governor shall appoint a board of  
11 massage, to consist of five members. Three of the members of the board must be massage  
12 therapists who are licensed in this state. The members must be appointed for three years,  
13 staggered so that the term of one member expires each year. Two additional members, who  
14 may not be massage therapists or immediate family members of a massage therapist, must be  
15 appointed as consumer members for two-year terms, staggered so that the term of one  
16 member expires each year. Each member of the board holds office until that member's  
17 successor is appointed and qualified.

18 Within one month after appointment of a new member, the board shall meet at some  
19 convenient place within the state and shall annually elect a president, vice president, and  
20 secretary-treasurer. The secretary-treasurer must be bonded in the sum of one thousand  
21 dollars for the faithful discharge of the secretary-treasurer's duties.

22 **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-25-05.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
23 amended and reenacted as follows:

24 **43-25-05.1. Powers and duties of the board.** The board has the following powers  
25 and duties:

- 26 1. The board may adopt and enforce rules as necessary to implement this chapter.  
27 2. The board ~~shall~~ may periodically inspect or cause to be inspected all massage  
28 establishments. The board and its agents are authorized to enter and inspect any  
29 massage establishment at any time during which the establishment is open for the  
30 transaction of business.

1           3.   The secretary-treasurer may prepare and submit to the governor a biennial report  
2                   detailing income and expenses and a list of licensed massage therapists.

3           4.   The board may hire office personnel deemed necessary by it for carrying on its  
4                   official duties and shall set the compensation to be paid to the personnel.

5           **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-25-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7           **43-25-06. Removal of members of board of massage - Officers of the board -**

8 **Meeting.** The governor may remove from office members of the board for neglect of duties as  
9 required by this chapter or for malfeasance in office and incompetency, or for unprofessional  
10 conduct. The governor may fill any vacancy caused by removal of any member of the board,  
11 on the member's resignation or death.

12           ~~The board shall within two weeks after its appointment meet at some convenient place~~  
13 ~~within the state and shall annually elect a president from their own members, and a~~  
14 ~~secretary treasurer. The secretary treasurer must be bonded in the sum of one thousand~~  
15 ~~dollars for the faithful discharge of the secretary treasurer's duties.~~

16           **SECTION 8. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-25-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
17 amended and reenacted as follows:

18           **43-25-07. Requisites for ~~application~~ licensure and examination - Subjects -**  
19 **Minimum passing grade - Fee for reexamination.**

20           1.   Any person who is eighteen years of age or more, a high school graduate or legal  
21                   equivalent, and of good moral character and temperate habits is entitled to apply to  
22                   the board. An applicant may receive a license from the board as a massage  
23                   therapist if the applicant:

24                   a.   Presents a diploma or credentials issued by a school of massage that meets  
25                   the standards set by the board;

26                   b.   Passes an examination conducted or approved by the board; and

27                   c.   Pays the required fees, which must accompany the application to the board.

28           2.   Any applicant failing to ~~pass the examination is entitled to a reexamination within~~  
29                   six months obtain licensure within six months of the initial application is entitled to  
30                   reapply within six months after notification that the application was rejected, upon  
31                   payment of ~~an additional~~ a fee of fifty dollars or a lesser amount established by the

1 board, ~~but two reexaminations.~~ Two applications exhaust the privilege under the  
2 original application.

3 3. Conviction of an offense does not disqualify a person from licensure under this  
4 chapter unless the board determines the offense has a direct bearing upon a  
5 person's ability to serve the public as a massage therapist or the person is not  
6 sufficiently rehabilitated under section 12.1-33-02.1.

7 **SECTION 9. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-25-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
8 amended and reenacted as follows:

9 **43-25-09. License - Display - Renewal - Renewal fee.**

- 10 1. Each license must be conspicuously displayed at the place of practice.
- 11 2. On or before January first of each year, each licensed massage therapist shall pay  
12 to the secretary-treasurer of the board a renewal fee of one hundred dollars or a  
13 lesser amount established by the board. ~~Attendance at postgraduate work of at  
14 least eighteen continuing education units a year as prescribed by the board is a  
15 further requirement for renewal of the license. The board may accept continuing  
16 education attained by remote means. No more than six units of a licensee's  
17 annual continuing education requirements may be by remote education. To qualify  
18 as continuing education, the remote education must be sponsored by a nationally  
19 recognized provider and must be board approved for content and suitability.~~
- 20 3. Continuing education of at least thirty-two continuing education hours, or  
21 equivalent college credits, submitted every two years is a further requirement for  
22 renewal of the license. The board may accept continuing education attained by  
23 remote means. No more than twelve hours of a licensee's renewal hours may be  
24 by remote means. To qualify as continuing education, the remote education must  
25 be board-approved for content and suitability.
- 26 a. Odd-numbered licensed individuals report their continuing education in  
27 odd-numbered years and even-numbered licensed individuals report their  
28 continuing education in even-numbered years, based on the calendar year.
- 29 b. This subdivision applies for the initial licensure period. Individuals licensed on  
30 or before May thirty-first of their initial year, who would normally report hours  
31 of continuing education, based on their license number being odd or even,

1                    would need to report at least sixteen hours. Those not required to submit  
2                    continuing education that initial January first would report at least twenty-four  
3                    hours by the following January first. Individuals licensed after May thirty-first  
4                    of their initial year, who would normally report hours of continuing education,  
5                    based on their license number being odd or even would not be required to  
6                    report that cycle, but would report at least forty-eight hours for the next cycle.  
7                    Those not required to submit continuing education hours that initial January  
8                    first would report at least sixteen hours by the following January first.  
9                    Thereafter, initial licensees would follow the normal renewal reporting cycle.  
10                  c. This subdivision applies to renewing licensees, for the implementation of the  
11                  continuing education reporting cycle. On or before January 1, 2010,  
12                  even-numbered licensees would submit at least sixteen hours of continuing  
13                  education. On or before January 1, 2011, odd-numbered licensees would  
14                  submit at least thirty-two hours of continuing education.

15        3- 4. If the board reasonably believes a massage therapist or applicant is in a physical  
16                  condition jeopardizing the health of those who seek relief from the individual, the  
17                  board may require the individual to have a physical examination by a competent  
18                  medical examiner. If the individual has had or has any communicable disease  
19                  sufficient to disqualify the applicant to practice massage in the state, the board  
20                  shall deny a license until the individual furnishes due proof of being physically and  
21                  mentally competent and sound.

22        4- 5. A holder of an expired license may within one year from the date of its expiration  
23                  have the license renewed upon payment of the required renewal fee ~~and~~. The  
24                  board may require production of a new certificate of physical examination and  
25                  evidence of any required continued educational hours being completed.

26        5- 6. All licenseholders must be designated as licensed massage therapists and may  
27                  not use any title or abbreviation without the designation "massage therapist".

28                  **SECTION 10. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-25-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
29                  amended and reenacted as follows:

30                  **43-25-10. ~~Revocation of license~~ Disciplinary actions - Complaints.**

- 1           1. The license of a massage therapist may be denied, revoked, suspended, or placed  
2           on probation for any of the following grounds:
- 3           a. The licensee is guilty of fraud in the practice of massage or fraud or deceit in  
4           admission to the practice of massage.
- 5           b. The licensee has been convicted of an offense determined by the board to  
6           have a direct bearing upon a person's ability to serve the public as a massage  
7           therapist, or, following conviction of any offense, the person is not sufficiently  
8           rehabilitated under section 12.1-33-02.1. The conviction of an offense  
9           includes conviction in any jurisdiction in the United States of any offense,  
10          which if committed within this state would constitute an offense under this  
11          state's laws.
- 12          c. The licensee is engaged in the practice of massage under a false or assumed  
13          name, or is impersonating another practitioner of a like or different name.
- 14          d. The licensee is addicted to the habitual use of intoxicating liquors, ~~narcotics,~~  
15          ~~or stimulants~~ or other legal or illegal drugs, to the extent the licensee is  
16          ~~incapacitated~~ compromised or impaired from performing the professional  
17          duties of a massage therapist or is under the influence while assessing,  
18          treating, or seeing a client.
- 19          e. The licensee is guilty of untrue, fraudulent, misleading, or deceptive  
20          advertising, the licensee prescribes medicines, drugs, or ~~vitamins,~~ or the  
21          licensee infringes on any other licensed profession.
- 22          f. The licensee is guilty of willful negligence in the practice of massage, or is  
23          guilty of employing, allowing, or permitting any unlicensed person to perform  
24          massage in the licensee's establishment.
- 25          g. The licensee has violated this chapter or any rule adopted by the board.
- 26          2. A licensee who violates this chapter or any rule adopted by the board may be  
27          assessed a civil penalty of up to one hundred dollars.
- 28          3. A complaint may be submitted to the board by any person or on its own motion. A  
29          complaint ~~must~~ may be signed by the complainant ~~and verified under oath.~~ The  
30          president may initiate an investigation of the complaint and report to the board.

1       ~~3.~~ 4. Any hearing regarding a disciplinary action or a denial of a license must be held  
2                   pursuant to chapter 28-32.

3               **SECTION 11. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-25-13 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
4 amended and reenacted as follows:

5               **43-25-13. Records to be kept by the secretary-treasurer of the board.** The  
6 secretary-treasurer of the board shall keep a record ~~book~~ of the names of all persons to whom  
7 licenses have been granted under this chapter, the license number of each, the date of granting  
8 each license and renewal, and other matters of record. Any official entry or a certificate of the  
9 absence of information, certified under the hand of the secretary-treasurer and the seal of the  
10 board, must be admitted as evidence in any of the courts of this state. The secretary-treasurer  
11 shall furnish to any person a certified copy of any record upon payment of a fee of ten dollars  
12 plus twenty-five cents per page copied, ~~the fee to belong to the secretary treasurer. The~~  
13 ~~secretary treasurer may prepare and submit to the governor a biennial report detailing income~~  
14 ~~and expenses and a list of massage therapists licensed.~~

15              **SECTION 12. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-25-14 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
16 amended and reenacted as follows:

17              **43-25-14. Compensation of board members - Clerks.** The board members shall  
18 receive compensation in an amount ~~of sixty-two~~ to be established by rule not to exceed one  
19 hundred dollars per day or prorated for partial days ~~for each day or portion of a day~~ the member  
20 is actually engaged in the performance of official duties and payment for mileage and travel  
21 expenses as provided in sections 44-08-04 and 54-06-09. ~~The secretary treasurer may receive~~  
22 ~~additional compensation as set by the board. The board may hire office personnel deemed~~  
23 ~~necessary by it for carrying on its official duties and shall set the compensation to be paid to the~~  
24 ~~personnel.~~

25              **SECTION 13. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-25-18 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
26 amended and reenacted as follows:

27              **43-25-18. Reciprocity.** Any person who has been duly licensed in another state to  
28 practice massage in a state that ~~has and maintains a standard of practice which is substantially~~  
29 ~~the same as that maintained~~ meets required educational hours and requirements in this state,  
30 and who has been lawfully and continuously engaged in this practice for two years or more  
31 immediately before filing of an application to practice in this state, and who submits to the board

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- 1 a duly attested certificate from the examining board of the state in which registered, certifying to
- 2 the fact of registration and being a person of good moral character and of professional
- 3 attainments, may upon paying a fee of one hundred fifty dollars or a lesser fee set by the board
- 4 be granted a license to practice in this state without being required to take an examination.