



HOUSE BILL 392: Reflexologist Right to Work Act.

2023-2024 General Assembly

Committee:	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	April 4, 2023
Introduced by:	Reps. Riddell, Warren, Belk, Brody	Prepared by:	Aaron McGlothlin
Analysis of:	First Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 392 would exempt nationally certified reflexologists and reflexology students from oversight by the North Carolina Board of Massage and Bodywork Therapy.*

CURRENT LAW: The North Carolina Massage and Bodywork Therapy Practice Act establishes legal requirements for licensure and regulation of massage and bodywork therapy practitioners ([Article 36 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes](#)).

G.S. 90-622 defines "massage and bodywork therapy" as "systems of activity applied to the soft tissues of the human body for therapeutic, educational, and relaxation purposes. The application may include (i) pressure, friction, stroking, rocking, kneading, percussion, or passive or active stretching within the normal anatomical range of movement; (ii) complimentary methods, including the external application of water, heat, cold, lubricants, and other topical preparations; and (iii) the use of mechanical devices that mimic or enhance actions that may possibly be done by the hands."

BILL ANALYSIS:

House Bill 392 would provide that the following individuals engaged in the practice of reflexology are not subject to licensure requirements or regulation under the Massage and Bodywork Therapy Practice Act:

- Nationally certified reflexologists who have a current certification from the American Reflexology Certification Board (ARCB).
- Reflexology students working to obtain certification from the ARCB under the supervision of an ARCB-certified reflexologist. The licensure exemption for reflexology students would be effective for a maximum of 12 months from the beginning of the certification process.

The bill would define "reflexology" as "a protocol of manual techniques, including thumb- and finger-walking, hook and backup, and rotating-on-a-point, that are applied to specific reflex areas predominately on the feet and hands and that stimulate the complex neural pathways linking body systems and support the body's efforts to function optimally."

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act would become effective October 1, 2023.

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