

1 S.127

2 Introduced by Senator Champion

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Professions and occupations; massage therapists; licensure study

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require a  
7 study of whether massage therapists should be licensed.

8 An act relating to a study regarding massage therapy licensure

9 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

10 Sec. 1. MASSAGE THERAPIST LICENSING STUDY COMMITTEE;

11 REPORT

12 (a) Creation. There is created a Massage Therapy Licensing Study  
13 Committee to examine whether massage therapists should be licensed in this  
14 State.

15 (b) Membership. The Committee shall be composed of the following eight  
16 members:

17 (1) the Director of the Office of Professional Regulation or  
18 designee; and

19 (2) the following members, who shall be appointed by the Governor:

20 (A) two massage therapists;

1           (B) a chiropractor;

2           (C) an orthopedic physician;

3           (D) an oncology physician;

4           (E) a physical therapist; and

5           (F) the director of a spa.

6           (c) Powers and duties. The Committee shall examine and recommend  
7           whether massage therapists should be licensed as a profession by the Office of  
8           Professional Regulation. In conducting this examination, the Committee shall  
9           consider the standards for regulating a profession set forth in 26 V.S.A. § 3105,  
10           as well as the increasingly complex nature of massage therapy and how the  
11           practice currently fits into Vermont's health care delivery system.

12           (d) Assistance. The Committee shall have the administrative, technical,  
13           and legal assistance of the Office of Professional Regulation.

14           (e) Report. On or before January 15, 2016, the Committee shall submit to  
15           the Senate and House Committees on Government Operations its  
16           recommendations regarding whether massage therapists should be licensed.  
17           The report of the Committee may take the form of draft legislation.

18           (f) Meetings.

19           (1) The Director of the Office of Professional Regulation shall call the  
20           first meeting of the Committee, to occur on or before September 1, 2015.

1           (2) The Committee shall select co-chairs from among its members at the  
2           first meeting.

3           (3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

4           (4) The Committee shall cease to exist on January 15, 2016.

5           (g) Reimbursement. Members of the Committee who are not employees of  
6           the State of Vermont and who are not otherwise compensated or reimbursed  
7           for their attendance shall be entitled to per diem compensation and  
8           reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for no more than five  
9           meetings.

10          Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

11          This act shall take effect on passage.