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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Henry/Block/Hall/Mejia LAST UPDATED _____
ORIGINAL DATE 02/20/2025
BILL
SHORT TITLE Photos for Licensed Massage Therapy NUMBER House Bill 555
ANALYST Serna

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT* (dollars in thousands)

Agency/Program	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Regulation and Licensing Department	No fiscal impact	\$25.0	No fiscal impact	\$25.0	Recurring	General Fund

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.

*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Relates to House Bill Senate Bill 203

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Agency Analysis Received From
Regulation and Licensing Department

SUMMARY

Synopsis of House Bill 555

House Bill 555 (HB555) amends the Massage Therapy Practice Act, specifically Section 61-12C-9, which would require massage therapist licenses to include a photograph of the licensee.

The effective date of this bill is July 1, 2025.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The Regulation and Licensing Department (RLD) anticipates that HB555 will require the department to modify its online licensing system, NM-Plus, to accommodate the new photo requirement. RLD estimates that the contract fees associated with these modifications to the online system would amount to \$25 thousand in FY26.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Regulation and Licensing Department noted that the Massage Therapy Board supports HB555.

Inclusion of a photo on massage therapists' licenses would assist clients in verifying the identity of licensed massage therapists, reducing the potential for fraud or misrepresentation.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Due to the technological updates required for RLD's online licensing system, the department requests an extension of the effective date for HB555 to January 1, 2026. The requested extension will provide sufficient time for implementation of the necessary changes. Additionally, RLD has suggested a modification to the photo requirement language, recommending the inclusion of the phrase "a current photo with a plain background."

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

HB555 relates to Senate Bill 203 (SB203), which amends the Massage Therapy Practice Act to require licensure for massage establishments in New Mexico. Both HB555 and SB203 assist in distinguishing legitimate practitioners from those operating unlawfully.

RS/hj/SL2