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44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1999

INTRODUCED BY

Lisa L. Lutz

AN ACT

RELATING TO LICENSING; REVISING THE PROVISIONS OF LAW REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF MASSAGE THERAPY; AMENDING, REPEALING AND ENACTING SECTIONS OF THE NMSA 1978.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 61-12C-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1991, Section 1. Chapter 147, Section 2) is amended to read:

"61-12C-2. LEGISLATIVE PURPOSE. -- [The legislature recognizes that the practice of massage therapy is potentially dangerous to the public. Therefore, it is necessary and] In the interest of public health, safety and welfare [to regulate the practice of massage therapy] and to protect the public from unlawful, improper and incompetent practice of massage therapy, it is necessary to regulate that practice."

Section 2. Section 61-12C-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1991, . 125685. 2

2	"61-12C-3. DEFINITIONSAs used in the Massage Therapy
3	Practice Act:
4	[A. "approved massage therapy school" means a
5	facility registered with the board that meets established
6	standards of training and curriculum;
7	B.] <u>A.</u> "board" means the [board of] massage
8	therapy <u>board</u> ;
9	[C.] <u>B.</u> "department" means the regulation and
10	licensing department;
11	C. "jurisprudence" means the statutes and rules of
12	the state pertaining to the practice of massage therapy;
13	D. "massage therapist" means a person [who uses
14	the title of massage therapist, is licensed to practice
15	massage therapy pursuant to the Massage Therapy Practice Act
16	[and administers massage therapy for compensation];
17	E. "massage therapy" means [the treatment of soft
18	tissues for therapeutic purposes as defined in Section
19	61-12C-4 NMSA 1978; and
20	F. "jurisprudence" means the statutes and rules of
21	the state pertaining to the practice of massage therapy]
22	manipulating muscles, ligaments, tendons, muscle insertions
23	and muscle anchors to effect a change in soft tissues of the
24	human body to produce comfort or the relief of pain primarily
25	for therapeutic purposes, but "massage therapy" does not

Chapter 147, Section 3, as amended) is amended to read:

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- F. "massage therapy school" means a facility providing a curriculum in massage therapy that is registered with the board; and
- "massage therapy training program" means a program providing massage therapy training that is not a massage therapy school and is registered with the board."

Section 3. Section 61-12C-4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1991, Chapter 147, Section 4, as amended by Laws 1993, Chapter 158, Section 8 and also by Laws 1993, Chapter 173, Section 3) is amended to read:

"61-12C-4. [MASSAGE THERAPY -- THERAPY -- DEFINED] EXCLUSIONS FROM ACT. --

[A. Massage therapy is the treatment of soft tissues for therapeutic purposes, primarily comfort and relief of pain. Massage therapy is a health care service. Massage therapy includes but is not limited to effleurage, petrissage, tapotement, compression, vibration, friction, nerve strokes and Swedish gymnastics. Massage therapy may include the use of oils, salt glows, hot or cold packs or hydrotherapy. Synonymous terms for massage therapy include massage, therapeutic massage, body massage, myomassage, bodywork, body rub or any derivation of those terms.

B. The terms "therapy" and "therapeutic massage"

do not include the diagnosis or treatment of illness or
disease or any service or procedure for which a license to
practice medicine, nursing, chiropractic, physical therapy,
occupational therapy, acupuncture or podiatry is required by
law.] Excluded from the application of other provisions of the
Massage Therapy Practice Act are:

A. services or procedures for which a license or registration is required by law or rule and that are provided by licensed or registered members of recognized professions within the scope of the license or registration;

B. students who render massage therapy as part of a course of study in a massage therapy school under the supervision of a registered massage therapy instructor;

C. a visiting massage therapy instructor from another state or territory of the United States, the District of Columbia or a foreign country if he is licensed or registered in his place of residence if required under that place's laws or, if not required, then if he is qualified in that place to provide massage therapy; and

D. traditional Hispanic or Native American healing practices performed by a sobador or a Native American healer."

Section 4. Section 61-12C-5 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1991, Chapter 147, Section 5, as amended) is amended to read:

"61-12C-5. LICENSE <u>OR REGISTRATION</u> REQUIRED. -- [<u>Effective</u> April 30, 1992]

A. [it is unlawful for any] <u>A</u> person [to practice]
shall not provide or offer to provide massage therapy for
compensation [to offer services as a massage therapist for
compensation or to purport to be a massage therapist] unless
that person [possesses a license to practice massage therapy
under the provisions of the Massage Therapy Practice Act and]
<u>is a massage therapist</u> .

- B. [no] A person shall not use the title of or represent himself to be a massage therapist or use any other title, abbreviations, letters, figures, signs or devices that indicate [that] the person is a massage therapist unless he is [licensed to practice massage therapy pursuant to the provisions of the Massage Therapy Practice Act] a massage therapist.
- C. A person shall not provide or offer to provide

 massage therapy training as a massage therapy instructor

 unless he is registered as a massage therapy instructor

 pursuant to Section 61-12C-9 NMSA 1978.
- D. A person shall not maintain, manage or operate
 a school or training program offering education, instruction
 or training in massage therapy unless the school or program is
 a massage therapy school or a massage therapy instruction
 program."
- Section 5. Section 61-12C-7 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1991, Chapter 147, Section 7, as amended) is amended to read:

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"61-12C-7. BOARD CREATED--MEMBERSHIP. --

- A. [There is created] The [board of] "massage therapy board" is created. The board [shall be] is administratively attached to the department.
- В. The board [shall consist] consists of five members who are New Mexico residents. Members of the board shall be appointed by the governor to terms of four years. The terms shall be staggered, and the governor shall make appointments of two two-year terms, two three-year terms and one four-year term, if necessary to produce staggered terms. Three members of the board shall be massage therapists, each with at least five years of massage therapy practice [in New Mexico] and who are actively engaged in the practice of massage therapy during their tenure as members. Two members of the board shall be public members [The initial three professional members appointed shall meet the requirements for licensure and be licensed by the deadline specified for licensure in the Massage Therapy Practice Act. The public members shall not who have not been licensed [or] and have [any] no financial interest, direct or indirect, in the profession [regulated] of massage therapy.
- C. Each member of the board shall hold office

 [until the expiration of the term for which appointed or]

 until a successor has been appointed and qualified.
- D. No board member shall serve more than two $\underline{\text{full}}$. 125685.2

consecutive terms.

E. The board shall elect annually a [chairman] chair and [such] other officers as it deems necessary. The board shall meet as often as necessary for the conduct of business, but no less than twice a year. Meetings shall be [called by the chairman or upon the written request of three or more members of the board] held in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. Three members, at least one of whom [is] must be a public member, shall constitute a quorum.

- F. [Any] <u>A</u> board member may be recommended for removal as a member of the board for failing to attend, after proper notice, three consecutive board meetings.
- G. Members of the board shall be reimbursed as provided for nonsalaried public officers in the Per Diem and Mileage Act and shall receive no other compensation, perquisite or allowance."

Section 6. Section 61-12C-8 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1991, Chapter 147, Section 8, as amended) is amended to read:

"61-12C-8. BOARD [DUTIES] <u>POWERS</u>.--The board [shall have] <u>has</u> the power to:

A. adopt and file, in accordance with the State Rules Act, rules [and regulations] necessary to carry out the provisions of the Massage Therapy Practice Act, in accordance with the provisions of [the Uniform Licensing Act] Sections 61-1-29 through 61-1-32 NMSA 1978;

1	B. provide for the evaluation of the				
2	qualifications of applicants for licensure or registration				
3	under the Massage Therapy Practice Act;				
4	C. provide for the issuance of licenses or				
5	registrations to applicants who meet the requirements of the				
6	Massage Therapy Practice Act;				
7	D. provide for the inspection, when required, of				
8	the business premises of any licensee or registrant during				
9	regular business hours;				
10	E. establish minimum training and educational				
11	standards for licensure <u>as a massage therapist or registration</u>				
12	as a massage therapy instructor;				
13	F. establish a process for [approval] registration				
14	of <u>massage therapy</u> training programs and massage therapy				
15	schools;				
16	[G. provide for the investigation of persons				
17	engaging in practices that may violate the provisions of the				
18	Massage Therapy Practice Act;				
19	II. revoke, suspend or deny a license or				
20	registration in accordance with the provisions of the Uniform				
21	Licensing Act;				
22	G. pursuant to the Uniform Licensing Act, conduct				
23	hearings on charges against applicants, licensees or				
24	registrants and take actions described in Section 61-1-3 NMSA				
25	<u>1978;</u>				
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1	H. bring an action for injunctive relief in				
2	district court seeking to enjoin a person from violating the				
3	provisions of the Massage Therapy Act;				
4	I. issue cease and desist orders to persons				
5	violating the provisions of the Massage Therapy Practice Act				
6	or any rule adopted by the board pursuant to that act;				
7	[I.] <u>J.</u> adopt an annual budget;				
8	[J.] <u>K.</u> adopt a code of [ethics and] professional				
9	<u>conduct</u> ;				
10	$\left[\frac{\mathbf{K}}{\mathbf{L}}\right]$ <u>L.</u> provide for the investigation of				
11	complaints against licensees [The board may issue				
12	investigation subpoenas prior to the issuance of a notice of				
13	contemplated action as set forth in Section 61-1-4 NMSA 1978				
14	<u>and</u>				
15	M. publish at least annually combined or separate				
16	lists of licensed massage therapists, registered massage				
17	therapy instructors, registered massage therapy schools and				
18	registered massage therapy training programs."				
19	Section 7. Section 61-12C-9 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1991,				
20	Chapter 147, Section 9, as amended) is amended to read:				
21	"61-12C-9. REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE [REGISTERED] OF				
22	MASSAGE THERAPISTS AND REGISTRATION OF MASSAGE THERAPY				
23	INSTRUCTORS				
24	A. The board shall issue a license to practice				
25	massage therapy to any person who files a completed				
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application, accompanied by the required fees, and who submits satisfactory evidence that the applicant:

- (1) has reached the age of majority;
- (2) has completed all educational requirements established by the board;
- therapy school or a massage therapy training program [approved by the board, at a school approved by the board, that program] being at least six hundred fifty hours in length that includes at least five hundred hours of massage therapy instruction; [provided that if the approved training program is] if the applicant has completed a curriculum of less than six hundred fifty hours, the applicant shall provide documentation of up to [three] one hundred fifty hours of alternative qualifying experience, including [but not limited to] professional massage therapy experience, apprenticeship training in massage therapy, clinical or internship training and prior experience in a health career, to be approved by the board; and
- (4) demonstrates professional competence by passing [a written examination as] all examinations prescribed by [the] board rule.
- [B. The board may also require a practical examination as a condition for licensure.
- \mathbb{C} .] \underline{B} . The board shall register as a massage therapy instructor any applicant who:

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1	(1) is currently licensed as a massage
2	therapist; and
3	[(2) proves to the board's satisfaction that
4	he meets the minimum requirement of two years of experience in
5	his area of instruction]
6	(2) has completed the educational and
7	experience requirements established by the board, which
8	requirements shall meet minimum standards of training and
9	curriculum for massage therapy instructors established by the
10	board.
11	C. An initial license or registration issued
12	pursuant to this section may be for a period of up to two
13	years pursuant to board rule."
14	Section 8. Section 61-12C-10 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1991,
15	Chapter 147, Section 10, as amended) is amended to read:
16	"61-12C-10. [APPROVED] REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION OF
17	MASSAGE THERAPY SCHOOLS [REGISTRATION] AND MASSAGE THERAPY
18	TRAINING PROGRAMS
19	A. The board shall establish by rule procedures
20	for [approval] the registration of massage therapy schools and
21	massage therapy training programs and shall register massage
22	therapy schools <u>and massage therapy training programs</u> that
23	meet the [educational] requirements of the Massage Therapy

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<u>act</u>.

Practice Act and rules adopted by the board pursuant to that

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B. The board shall establish minimum standards of ng and curriculum for [approved training programs and oproved] massage therapy schools. [At a minimum, red] Massage therapy schools shall provide [training ems] a curriculum that [include] includes a minimum of e] <u>six</u> hundred <u>fifty</u> hours of training [This] <u>and</u> shall de instruction in:

- (1) anatomy;
- **(2)** physi ol ogy;
- at least five hundred hours in massage (3) therapy;
- **(4)** business;
- hydrotherapy; **(5)**
- **(6)** first aid;
- cardiopul monary resuscitation; and **(7)**
- professional ethics. **(8)**

C. The board shall establish minimum standards of training and curriculum for massage therapy training programs. Massage therapy training programs shall provide a curriculum that includes a minimum of six hundred fifty hours of training and instruction in the subjects described in Paragraphs (1) through (8) of Subsection B of this section.

The board shall establish a list of [C.] D. [approved] registered massage therapy schools and [shall register any institution that meets the requirements of the

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board and files a current curriculum and list of instructors.

- D. An approved massage therapy school shall register annually with the board massage therapy training programs.
- E. A massage therapy school or a massage therapy
 training program shall limit the description on its diplomas,
 certificates or other evidences of successful completion of
 training to the words "massage therapy" to describe the
 content of the training."

Section 9. Section 61-12C-11 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1991, Chapter 147, Section 11, as amended) is amended to read:

"61-12C-11. DISPLAY OF LICENSE <u>OR REGISTRATION</u>.--A massage therapy license or registration issued by the board shall at all times be posted in a conspicuous place in the holder's principal place of business."

Section 10. Section 61-12C-13 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1991, Chapter 147, Section 13, as amended) is amended to read:
"61-12C-13. EXAMINATIONS.--

A. [Examinations shall be held at least twice each year on a date and at a location established by the board.

Applicants who have been found to meet the education and experience requirements for licensure shall be scheduled for the next examination following the filing of the application.

The board shall establish by rule the [examination application deadline and other rules relating to] required examinations

and the proced	lures f	<u>or</u> taking	and re	taking [li	censur	'e
exami nati ons]	them.	The board	lshall	determi ne	the p	assi ng
grade on exami	nati ons	S.				
В.	The bo	oard shall	speci f	y by rule	the ge	eneral

B. The board shall specify by rule the general areas of competency to be covered by examinations for licensure and ensure that the examinations measure adequately both an applicant's competency and knowledge of related statutory requirements. Professional testing services may be utilized for the examinations.

[C. After taking the written examination, each applicant may be tested in the practical application of massage therapy techniques in such a manner and by such methods as shall reveal the applicant's skill and knowledge.

D. All licensing examinations shall be conducted in such a manner that the applicants shall be known to the board by number until the examination is completed and the grade determined. A record of each examination shall be filed in the board office and available for inspection for a period of not less than two years immediately following the examination.]

Section 11. Section 61-12C-14 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1991, Chapter 147, Section 14, as amended) is amended to read:
"61-12C-14. TEMPORARY LICENSE.--

A. Prior to examination, an applicant for licensure may obtain a temporary license to engage in the .125685.2

practice of massage therapy [provided that] if the applicant meets all the requirements for licensure except completion of the examination.

- B. The temporary license is valid until the results of the next scheduled examination are available and a license is issued or denied. [If approved, the applicant shall be issued the initial license for the remainder of the year.]
- C. No more than one temporary license may be issued to an individual, and no temporary license shall be issued to an applicant who has previously failed the examinations."

Section 12. Section 61-12C-16 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1991, Chapter 147, Section 16, as amended) is amended to read:

"61-12C-16. LICENSURE BY CREDENTIALS.--After successful completion of a jurisprudence examination, the board may license an applicant, provided that he possesses a valid license or registration to practice massage therapy issued by the appropriate examining board under the laws of any other state or territory of the United States, the District of Columbia or any foreign nation and has met educational and examination requirements [substantially equivalent] equal to or exceeding those established pursuant to the Massage Therapy Practice Act."

Section 13. Section 61-12C-17 NMSA 1978 (being Laws . 125685. 2

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1991, Chapter 147, Section 17, as amended) is amended to read:

"61-12C-17. LICENSE OR REGISTRATION RENEWAL--CONTINUING

EDUCATION.--

A. Massage therapy licenses <u>and massage therapy</u>
<u>instructor registrations</u> shall expire biennially. [and]

Massage therapy school registrations <u>and massage therapy</u>
<u>training program registrations</u> shall expire annually. [on a date] <u>Expiration dates shall be</u> established by rule.

[B. Each licensee shall renew his license by submitting a renewal application on a form provided by the board. Initial licenses may be valid for one or two years, depending on assigned license number and board rule.

E.] B. The board may establish continuing educational requirements as a condition of the renewal of massage therapy licenses

[D. Each massage therapy school shall renew its registration by submitting a renewal application and providing a description of its current curriculum and list of all instructors] and massage therapy instructor registrations.

C. A license or registration shall be renewed by submitting a renewal application on a form provided by the board.

[E.] D. A sixty-day grace period shall be allowed each license or registration holder after the end of the renewal period, during which time a license or registration . 125685.2

may be renewed upon payment of the renewal fee and a late fee as prescribed by the board."

Section 14. Section 61-12C-18 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1991, Chapter 147, Section 18) is amended to read:

"61-12C-18. INACTIVE STATUS. --

A. [Any license] A massage therapy license or massage therapy instructor registration not renewed at the end of the sixty-day grace period shall be placed on inactive status for a period not to exceed two years. At the end of two years, if the license or registration has not been reactivated, it shall automatically expire.

B. If within a period of two years from the date the license or registration was placed on inactive status the massage therapist or massage therapy instructor wishes to resume practice, the board shall be notified in writing, and, upon proof of completion of any continuing education or refresher courses prescribed by [regulation] rule of the board and payment of an amount set by the board in lieu of all lapsed renewal fees, the license or registration shall be restored in full."

Section 15. Section 61-12C-20 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1991, Chapter 147, Section 20, as amended) is amended to read:

"61-12C-20. LICENSE FEES.--[A.] The board shall establish by rule a schedule of reasonable fees for applications, examinations, licenses, registrations,

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<u>inspections</u> , renewals, [placement on inactive status]
penalties, reactivation and necessary administrative fees,
[B. The initial licensure application fee shall
not exceed fifty dollars (\$50.00).
C. The initial license fee shall not exceed one
hundred fifty dollars (\$150).
D. The examination fee shall not exceed four
hundred dollars (\$400).
E. The biennial renewal fee shall not exceed three
hundred dollars (\$300).
F. The fee for reactivation of an inactive license
shall not exceed four hundred dollars (\$400).
G. A late renewal fee shall not exceed one hundred
dollars (\$100).
H. The registration fee for an approved massage
therapy school shall not exceed one hundred dollars (\$100).
I. The registration fee for a massage therapy
instructor shall not exceed fifty dollars (\$50.00) but no
single fee shall exceed five hundred dollars (\$500). All fees
collected shall be deposited in the massage therapy fund. "
Section 16. Section 61-12C-21 NMSA 1978 (being Laws
1991, Chapter 147, Section 21, as amended) is amended to read:
"61-12C-21. ADVERTISING[$\frac{Each}{A}$] \underline{A} massage therapist,
massage therapist instructor, massage therapy school and
massage therapy training program licensed or registered [under
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the provisions of pursuant to the Massage Therapy Practice
Act shall include the number of [his] the license or
registration, and the designation as [either] a [license or
registration] "massage therapist", "registered massage therapy
instructor", "registered massage therapy school" or
"registered massage therapy training program" in any
advertisement of massage therapy services [appearing in any
newspaper, airwave transmission, telephone directory or other
advertising medium] as established by board rule."

Section 17. Section 61-12C-24 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1991, Chapter 147, Section 24, as amended) is amended to read:
"61-12C-24. DENIAL, SUSPENSION, REVOCATION AND

REINSTATEMENT OF LICENSES. --

[A. The board may impose a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000), place on probation as specified by the board or refuse to issue or renew or may deny, suspend or revoke any license, temporary license or registration held or applied for under the Massage Therapy Practice Act in accordance with the procedures

A. Pursuant to the Uniform Licensing Act, the
board may take disciplinary action against a person licensed
or registered pursuant to the Massage Therapy Practice Act.

B. The board has authority to take an action set forth in [the Uniform Licensing Act] Section 61-1-3 NMSA 1978 upon a finding by the board that the licensee, registrant or .125685.2

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- (1) is guilty of fraud, deceit or misrepresentation [in procuring or attempting to procure a license or registration provided for in the Massage Therapy Practice Act]:
- (2) attempted to use as his own the license or registration of another;
- (3) allowed the use of his license or registration by another;
- (4) has been adjudicated as mentally incompetent by regularly constituted authorities;
- (5) has been convicted [or found guilty, regardless of adjudication, of a crime, in any jurisdiction, that directly relates to the practice of massage therapy or to the ability to practice massage therapy. Any plea of nolo contendere shall be considered a conviction for the purposes of this section] of any offense punishable by incarceration in a state penitentiary or federal prison. A copy of the record of conviction, certified by the clerk of the court entering the conviction, is conclusive evidence of conviction;
- (6) is guilty of unprofessional or unethical conduct or a violation of the code of ethics;
- (7) is habitually or excessively using controlled substances or alcohol;
 - (8) is guilty of false, deceptive or

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- (9) is guilty of aiding, assisting or advertising any unlicensed or unregistered person in the practice of massage therapy;
- (10) is grossly negligent or incompetent in the practice of massage therapy; $[\frac{\partial r}{\partial r}]$
- (11) has had a license or registration to practice massage therapy revoked, suspended or denied in any jurisdiction, territory or possession of the United States or another country for acts of the licensee or registrant similar to acts described in this section. A certified copy of the record of conviction shall be conclusive evidence of [such] the conviction; or
- (12) is guilty of failing to comply with a provision of the Massage Therapy Practice Act or rules of the board adopted pursuant to that act and filed in accordance with the State Rules Act.
- [B.] <u>C.</u> Disciplinary proceedings may be instituted by sworn complaint of any person, including members of the board, and shall conform with the provisions of the Uniform Licensing Act.
- [C.] D. The board may establish the guidelines for the disposition of [the] disciplinary cases. [Such]

 Guidelines may include but shall not be limited to minimum and maximum fines, periods of probation, conditions of probation

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or reissuance of a license or registration.

 $[rac{\mathbf{E}.}{}]$ $\underline{\mathbf{E}.}$ License and registration holders who have been found culpable and sanctioned by the board shall be responsible for the payments of all costs of the disciplinary proceedings."

Section 18. Section 61-12C-27 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1993, Chapter 173, Section 20) is amended to read:

"61-12C-27. OFFENSES--CRIMINAL PENALTIES.--[Any person who violates any provision of the Massage Therapy Practice Actis guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or imprisonment for a period not to exceed one year or both.]

A person who does any of the following is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be sentenced pursuant to Section 31-19-1 NMSA 1978:

A. violates a provision of the Massage Therapy

Practice Act or rules adopted pursuant to that act;

B. renders or attempts to render massage therapy services, instruction as a massage therapy instructor, instruction as a massage therapy school or massage therapy training program without the required current valid license or registration issued by the board; or

C. advertises or uses a designation, diploma or certificate implying that he is a massage therapist, massage therapy instructor, massage therapy school or massage therapy. 125685.2

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training program unless he holds a current valid license or registration issued by the board.

Section 19. Section 61-12C-28 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1993, Chapter 173, Section 21) is amended to read:

Section 20. REPEAL. -- Section 61-12C-6 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1991, Chapter 147, Section 6, as amended) is repealed.

Section 21. EFFECTIVE DATE. -- The effective date of the provisions of this act is July 1, 1999.

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