

Senate Resolution 453

By: Senator Unterman of the 45th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Massage Therapy Practices; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the term 'massage therapy' is defined under O.C.G.A. 43-24A-3 to mean the
3 application of a system of structured touch, pressure, movement, and holding to the soft
4 tissue of the body in which the primary intent is to enhance or restore health and well-being,
5 including complementary methods and including without limitation the external application
6 of water, superficial heat, superficial cold, lubricants, salt scrubs, or other topical
7 preparations and the use of commercially available electromechanical devices which do not
8 require the use of transcutaneous electrodes and which mimic or enhance the actions possible
9 by the hands; and

10 WHEREAS, the term is further defined to include determining whether massage therapy is
11 appropriate or contraindicated, or whether referral to another health care provider is
12 appropriate; and

13 WHEREAS, massage therapy is further defined as not including the use of ultrasound,
14 fluidotherapy, laser, and other methods of deep thermal modalities; and

15 WHEREAS, since the enactment of Senate Bill 110 in 2005, the practice of massage therapy
16 in Georgia has been regulated by the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy to promote high
17 standards of professional performance for those licensed to practice massage therapy and to
18 protect the public from unprofessional conduct by those licensed to practice massage therapy;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, after satisfying application requirements for state licensure, which includes a
21 minimum of 500 hours of clinical training, it is important to the massage therapy profession
22 that licensed therapists have the ability to practice in Georgia; and

23 WHEREAS, a study is needed to better understand the economic burdens on the massage
24 therapy profession in this state, including restrictions or barriers to massage therapy practice
25 in city and county localities.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

27 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Study Committee
28 on Massage Therapy Practices.

29 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of four members to be
30 appointed by the President of the Senate as follows:

31 (A) Two members of the Senate;

32 (B) One licensed massage therapist; and

33 (C) One representative from a local government.

34 The President shall designate a legislative member of the committee as chairperson of the
35 committee.

36 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,
37 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or
38 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate.

39 (4) **Meetings.** The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee. The committee
40 may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
41 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
42 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.

43 (5) **Allowances, expenses, and funding.**

44 (A) The legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided
45 for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

46 (B) Members of the committee who are not legislators, state officials, or state
47 employees shall receive a daily expense allowance in an amount the same as that
48 specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia
49 Annotated, as well as the mileage or transportation allowance authorized for state
50 employees.

51 (C) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
52 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds
53 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
54 appropriated to the Senate.

55 (6) **Report.**

56 (A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that
57 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file a report of the

58 same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to
59 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

60 (B) In the event the committee adopts a report that does not include suggestions for
61 proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file the report, subject to subparagraph (C)
62 of this paragraph.

63 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
64 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
65 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with
66 the Secretary of the Senate.

67 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Secretary
68 of the Senate a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

69 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2017.