THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1643 Session of 2005

INTRODUCED BY McCALL, BEBKO-JONES, BELARDI, B. SMITH, BELFANTI,
BIANCUCCI, BLACKWELL, BOYD, CALTAGIRONE, CLYMER, CORNELL,
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PETRARCA, PETRONE, QUIGLEY, READSHAW, REICHLEY, SAINATO,
SHANER, STABACK, STURLA, TANGRETTI, THOMAS, WALKO, WANSACZ,
WATSON, WILT, WOJNAROSKI, YEWCIC, YOUNGBLOOD AND HARHAI,
JUNE 6, 2005

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, JUNE 6, 2005

AN ACT

- 1 Regulating massage therapy; establishing the State Board of
- Professional Massage Therapists; providing for funds, for
- 3 licensure, for disciplinary action and for remedies; imposing
- 4 criminal penalties; and making an appropriation.
- 5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- 6 hereby enacts as follows:
- 7 Section 1. Short title.
- 8 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Professional
- 9 Massage Therapists Law.
- 10 Section 2. Declaration of policy.
- 11 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:
- 12 (1) The practice of massage may cause public safety
- issues if the practice is not subject to responsible
- 14 regulation.

- 1 (2) Reasonable regulation is in furtherance of public
- 2 health, safety and welfare interests.
- 3 (3) Massage therapy is therapeutic.
- 4 (4) Regulation is necessary to set educational standards
- 5 within the profession and to protect the public from
- 6 unqualified massage therapy practitioners and unscrupulous
- 7 individuals.
- 8 (5) Consumer protection with respect to both health and
- 9 economic matters will be afforded the public through the
- 10 regulation and associated legal remedies provided for in this
- 11 act.
- 12 Section 3. Definitions.
- 13 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
- 14 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
- 15 context clearly indicates otherwise:
- 16 "Account." The Professional Licensure Augmentation Account.
- 17 "Applicant." An individual who applies for a license.
- 18 "Board. The State Board of Professional Massage Therapists
- 19 established in section 4 (relating to board).
- 20 "Bureau." The Bureau of Professional and Occupational
- 21 Affairs.
- 22 "Commissioner." The Commissioner of Professional and
- 23 Occupational Affairs.
- "Impaired professional." A licensee who is abusing a
- 25 chemical substance, including alcohol.
- 26 "License." A license to practice massage therapy under
- 27 section 6 (relating to licensure). The term does not include a
- 28 temporary license under section 6(e).
- 29 "Licensee." An individual who holds a license or a temporary
- 30 license.

- 1 "Massage therapy." The application of a system of structured
- 2 touch, pressure, movement and holding to the soft tissue of the
- 3 human body in which the primary intent is to enhance health and
- 4 well-being of the client. The term includes the external
- 5 application of water, heat, cold, lubricants or other topical
- 6 preparations and electro-mechanical devices which mimic or
- 7 enhance the actions of the hands. The term does not include the
- 8 diagnosis of illness or disease, medical procedures,
- 9 chiropractic adjustment, electrical stimulation, ultrasound or
- 10 prescription of medicines, for which a license to practice
- 11 medicine, chiropractic, physical therapy, occupational therapy,
- 12 podiatry or other practice of the healing arts is required.
- 13 "Massage therapist." An individual who is licensed under
- 14 this act to administer massage or massage therapy and who refers
- 15 clients to a medical doctor when a contraindication to massage
- 16 therapy is present.
- 17 "Person." Any individual, organization, association,
- 18 partnership, company, trust or corporate body.
- 19 "Reflexology." The physical act of using thumbs, fingers and
- 20 hand techniques to apply specific pressure on the reflex area in
- 21 the feet, hands or ears of the client.
- 22 "Sexual behavior." Conduct which is or is intended to be
- 23 sexual in nature or which may be construed by a reasonable
- 24 person as sexual in nature.
- 25 "Sexual exploitation." Sexual behavior with a current client
- 26 which uses trust, knowledge, emotions or influence derived from
- 27 the professional relationship.
- 28 Section 4. Board.
- 29 (a) Establishment.--The State Board of Professional Massage
- 30 Therapists is established as a board in the bureau.

- 1 (b) Membership.--The following shall be members of the
- 2 board:
- 3 (1) The commissioner or a designee, who shall serve as
- 4 the chairperson of the board.
- 5 (2) The Physician General or a designee.
- 6 (3) The Attorney General or a designee.
- 7 (4) Four members appointed by the Governor, with the
- 8 advice and consent of the majority of the members elected to
- 9 the Senate. Each member under this paragraph must:
- 10 (i) have been actively engaged as a massage
- therapist for not less than five years prior to
- 12 appointment; and
- 13 (ii) have a well-respected reputation in the field.
- 14 (c) Terms.--
- 15 (1) Members under subsection (b)(1) through (3) shall
- 16 serve ex officio.
- 17 (2) Members under subsection (b)(4) shall serve initial
- 18 terms as follows:
- (i) One member shall be appointed for a term of two
- 20 years.
- 21 (ii) One member shall be appointed for a term of
- three years.
- 23 (iii) One member shall be appointed for a term of
- four years.
- 25 (iv) One member shall be appointed for a term of
- 26 five years.
- 27 (3) After the expiration of a term under paragraph (2),
- a subsequent term shall be for five years.
- 29 (4) A replacement for a member appointed under
- 30 subsection (b)(4) shall serve the remainder of the unexpired

- 1 term.
- 2 (d) Procedure.--
- 3 (1) A majority of the members of the board constitutes a
- 4 quorum. A member must participate at a meeting of the board
- 5 in person or by teleconference for purposes of meeting a
- 6 quorum.
- 7 (2) Voting must be direct. Proxy voting is not
- 8 permitted.
- 9 (e) Conflict of interest.--A member of the board may not
- 10 have a financial interest in a professional testing
- 11 organization.
- 12 (f) Compensation.--Each member of the board under subsection
- 13 (b)(4), when performing functions of the board, shall receive
- 14 all of the following:
- 15 (1) A per diem fee set by regulation of the bureau.
- 16 (2) Reasonable travel, hotel and other necessary
- expenses, as set by regulation of the bureau.
- 18 (g) Meetings.--The board shall meet at least once every two
- 19 months and at additional times as necessary to conduct the
- 20 business of the board.
- 21 (h) Participation. -- A member of the board under subsection
- 22 (b)(4) who fails to attend three consecutive meetings shall
- 23 forfeit membership unless the chairperson, upon written request
- 24 from the member, finds that the member should be excused for
- 25 good cause.
- 26 (i) Powers and duties. -- The board has the following powers
- 27 and duties to administer this act:
- 28 (1) To issue orders.
- 29 (2) To promulgate regulations. This paragraph includes
- 30 all of the following:

- (i) Compensation under subsection (f).
- 2 (ii) Education under section 6(b)(1) (relating to
- 3 licensure). An increase in training or hours of
- 4 instruction requirements shall not become effective
- 5 within the first two years after the effective date of
- 6 this subparagraph.
- 7 (iii) Fees under sections 6(b)(3) and 7(b)(2)
- 8 (relating to license renewal and continuing education).
- 9 Initial fees shall be designed to recover the board's
- 10 administrative costs. If the funds raised by fees and
- 11 penalties under this act are not sufficient to meet the
- 12 board's administrative costs over a two-year period, the
- board may promulgate regulations to increase those fees
- so that the projected funds will meet the board's
- 15 projected costs.
- 16 (iv) Posting under section 9 (relating to display of
- license).
- 18 (3) To promulgate statements of policy.
- 19 (4) To establish a system which assures that licensees
- 20 receive timely information from the board regarding issues
- 21 affecting the education, practice and regulation of massage
- 22 therapy. This paragraph includes the mailing of a renewal
- application under section 7(b)(1) to each licensee at the
- 24 most recent address on the records of the board.
- 25 (5) When it is prepared to implement this act, to
- 26 transmit notice of that fact to the Legislative Reference
- 27 Bureau for publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.
- 28 Section 5. Deposit of funds.
- 29 Fees and penalties collected under this act shall be paid
- 30 into the account and used by the bureau and the board to

- 1 administer this act.
- 2 Section 6. Licensure.
- 3 (a) Requirement.--Except as set forth in subsection (e)(2)
- 4 or (3), a license or a temporary license is required in order to
- 5 practice massage therapy.
- 6 (b) Qualifications.--The following are the qualifications
- 7 for licensure:
- 8 (1) The applicant must complete massage studies with a
- 9 minimum of 600 hours of in-class, postsecondary education
- 10 instruction approved by the State Board of Private Licensed
- 11 Schools or by the board. This paragraph includes training in
- the human immunodeficiency virus and related risks and health
- 13 care cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
- 14 (2) The applicant must file an application.
- 15 (3) The applicant must pay a fee as established by
- 16 regulation of the board.
- 17 (4) The applicant must pass an examination prepared and
- administered by a qualified professional testing organization
- 19 approved by the bureau and approved by the board in
- 20 accordance with section 812.1 of the act of April 9, 1929
- 21 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929.
- 22 (5) The applicant must demonstrate all of the following
- 23 to the satisfaction of the board:
- 24 (i) The applicant is of good moral character.
- 25 (ii) The applicant has a high school diploma or its
- 26 equivalent.
- 27 (iii) The applicant is not addicted to the habitual
- use of alcohol, narcotics or other habit-forming drugs.
- 29 (iv) Except as set forth in subparagraph (v), the
- 30 applicant has not been sentenced for a felony or for an

offense under the law of another jurisdiction which, if committed in this Commonwealth, would constitute a felony. Compliance with this subparagraph must be documented by a report of criminal history record information from the Pennsylvania State Police or by a statement from the Pennsylvania State Police that its central repository contains no information relating to the applicant. The costs associated with the report or statement shall be paid by the applicant.

- (v) The applicant must not have been sentenced for a felony under the act of April 14, 1972 (P.L.233, No.64), known as The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act, or for an offense under the law of another jurisdiction which, if committed in this Commonwealth, would be a felony under The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act, unless the applicant satisfies all of the following criteria:
 - (A) At least ten years have elapsed from the date of sentencing.
 - (B) The applicant has made significant progress in personal rehabilitation since the sentencing such that licensure of the applicant would not be expected to create a substantial risk of harm to the health and safety of clients or the public or create a substantial risk of further criminal violations.
- (vi) The applicant must not have been sentenced for an offense under section 14 (relating to criminal penalties) unless five years have elapsed from the date of sentencing.
- 30 (c) Issuance and term.--

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- 1 (1) Subject to subsections (d), (e) and (f), the board
- 2 shall issue a license to an applicant who meets the
- 3 qualifications under subsection (b).
- 4 (2) Except as set forth in subsection (e)(3), the term
- of a license is two years. Renewal is subject to section 7
- 6 (relating to license renewal and continuing education).
- 7 (d) Existing practitioners.--The board shall issue a license
- 8 to an applicant who, on the effective date of this subsection,
- 9 complies with all of the following paragraphs:
- 10 (1) Is an active professional practitioner of massage.
- 11 (2) Meets the qualifications described in subsection
- 12 (b)(2), (3) and (5).
- 13 (3) Complies with one of the following subparagraphs:
- 14 (i) Has:
- 15 (A) been in active, continuous practice for at
- least five years immediately preceding the effective
- 17 date of this section; and
- 18 (B) completed 150 hours of instruction in
- massage and related subjects.
- 20 (ii) Has passed an examination administered by a
- 21 certifying agency which is approved by the National
- 22 Commission of Certifying Agencies and is in good standing
- with the certifying agency or with the board.
- 24 (iii) Has completed 500 hours of instruction in
- 25 massage and related subjects from a massage therapy
- 26 program approved by the State Board of Private Licensed
- 27 Schools or by the board.
- 28 (e) Temporary license.--
- 29 (1) The board may issue a temporary license to an
- 30 applicant who, on the effective date of this subsection, is

- an active practitioner of massage therapy who:
- 2 (i) meets the qualifications described in subsection
- (b)(2), (3) and (5); but
- 4 (ii) does not meet the criteria in subsection (d).
- 5 (2) A temporary license permits a continuation of
- 6 practice as a massage therapist for a period not to exceed
- 7 two years. During this period, the licensee must fulfill the
- 8 requirements of subsection (b)(1) and (4). A temporary
- 9 license shall not be renewable.
- 10 (3) Unless revoked or suspended under section 11
- 11 (relating to sanctions) or 12 (relating to temporary
- suspension), a temporary license shall expire at the earlier
- of the following:
- 14 (i) The expiration of the specified period.
- 15 (ii) The board's issuance of a license upon
- determination that the licensee has fulfilled the
- requirements of subsection (b)(1) and (4).
- 18 (f) Licensure by endorsement. -- The board shall issue a
- 19 license to an individual who meets all of the following:
- 20 (1) Complies with subsection (b)(2) and (3).
- 21 (2) Has a valid license in massage or similar practice
- from another state, territory, possession or country with a
- 23 standard of qualifications substantially equivalent to or
- greater than that provided for in this act.
- 25 (3) Complies with applicable regulations.
- 26 (g) Deadline for initial applications.--
- 27 (1) In the initial regulations under this act, the board
- shall establish an application date for the filing of initial
- 29 applications for licensure.
- 30 (2) An active practitioner as of the effective date of

- 1 this subsection may continue to practice massage therapy up
- 2 until the application date under paragraph (1).
- 3 (3) Beginning on the application date under paragraph
- 4 (1), only an applicant may practice massage therapy. Practice
- 5 under this paragraph is limited to the period during which
- 6 the application is pending before the board.
- 7 (h) Transferability.--A license and a temporary license are
- 8 not transferable.
- 9 Section 7. License renewal and continuing education.
- 10 (a) Scope.--
- 11 (1) This section applies to all of the following:
- 12 (i) A licensee.
- 13 (ii) An individual who was a licensee but who has
- not been a licensee for less than five years.
- 15 (2) An individual who was a licensee but who has not
- been a licensee for at least five years is subject to section
- 6 (relating to licensure).
- 18 (b) Procedure.--To renew a license, a licensee must do all
- 19 of the following:
- 20 (1) File a renewal application with the board. On the
- 21 application, the applicant must verify all of the following:
- 22 (i) Renewal of training in health care
- 23 cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
- 24 (ii) Successful completion of a minimum of 24 hours
- of study in the field of massage therapy during the
- immediately preceding two years as approved by the board.
- 27 (2) Pay a fee established by regulation of the board.
- 28 (c) Board.--
- 29 (1) Upon receipt of the application and fee, the board
- 30 shall investigate the licensee to determine all of the

- 1 following:
- 2 (i) The accuracy of the renewal application.
- 3 (ii) Action under section 11 (relating to sanctions)
- 4 completed during the prior license term or pending at the
- 5 time of renewal application.
- 6 (2) After investigation under paragraph (1), if the
- 7 board is satisfied that the licensee is fit to continue the
- 8 practice of massage therapy, the board shall renew the
- 9 license.
- 10 Section 8. Title and utilization.
- 11 A licensee has the right to use the title "Massage Therapist"
- 12 and the abbreviation "M.T."
- 13 Section 9. Display of license.
- 14 The board may, by regulation or order, require the posting of
- 15 licenses or temporary licenses.
- 16 Section 10. Unprofessional conduct.
- 17 The following constitute unprofessional conduct:
- 18 (1) Failure to demonstrate the qualifications under
- 19 section 6(b)(1) or (5) (relating to licensure).
- 20 (2) Failure to refer a client to a medical doctor when
- 21 the client is presenting a contraindication to massage
- therapy.
- 23 (3) Gross incompetence, negligence or misconduct in
- 24 carrying out the practice of massage therapy.
- 25 (4) Submission of a false or deceptive application to
- 26 the board.
- 27 (5) Being sentenced for a felony in any jurisdiction.
- 28 (6) Being sanctioned by a massage therapy licensing
- 29 authority within another jurisdiction.
- 30 (7) Inability to practice massage therapy with

- 1 reasonable skill and safety to clients by reason of illness,
- 2 abuse of alcohol or other chemical substances or a mental or
- 3 physical condition.
- 4 (8) Violation of any regulation or order of the board.
- 5 (9) Knowingly aiding, assisting, hiring or advising
- 6 unlawful practice of massage therapy contrary to section
- 7 14(a) (relating to criminal penalties).
- 8 (10) Practice or attempt to practice beyond the
- 9 licensee's defined scope of practice.
- 10 (11) Sexual exploitation. Consent of the client is not a
- 11 defense under this paragraph.
- 12 (12) Making misleading, deceptive, untrue or fraudulent
- representations in the practice of massage therapy.
- 14 (13) Conduct outside of but resulting from the
- professional relationship which the board, by regulation,
- declares to be unprofessional.
- 17 Section 11. Sanctions.
- 18 (a) Discretionary.--
- 19 (1) If the board finds that a licensee has engaged in
- 20 conduct prohibited by section 10 (relating to unprofessional
- conduct), the board may administer the following sanctions:
- 22 (i) Suspend enforcement of its finding and place a
- 23 licensee on probation with the right to vacate the
- 24 probationary order for noncompliance.
- 25 (ii) Require a licensee to submit to the care,
- 26 counseling or treatment of a physician or a psychologist
- 27 designated by the board.
- 28 (iii) Administer a public reprimand.
- 29 (iv) Impose an administrative penalty of up to
- 30 \$1,000.

- 1 (v) Suspend the license.
- 2 (vi) Revoke the license.
- 3 (2) The board may vacate a sanction if it determines
- 4 that vacation is just and reasonable.
- 5 (b) Mandatory.--
- 6 (1) The board shall suspend a license if any of the
- 7 following apply:
- 8 (i) The licensee is committed to an institution
- 9 because of mental incompetence from any cause.
- 10 (ii) The licensee is sentenced for a felony under
- 11 the act of April 14, 1972 (P.L.233, No.64), known as The
- 12 Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act, or
- for an offense under the laws of another jurisdiction
- which, if committed in this Commonwealth, would be a
- 15 felony under The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and
- 16 Cosmetic Act.
- 17 (2) Automatic suspension under this subsection shall not
- 18 be stayed pending any appeal of a conviction.
- 19 (c) Administrative agency law.--This section is subject to 2
- 20 Pa.C.S. Ch. 5 Subch A. (relating to practice and procedure of
- 21 Commonwealth agencies) and Ch. 7 Subch. A (relating to judicial
- 22 review of Commonwealth agency action).
- 23 (d) Return of license. -- The board shall require a licensee
- 24 whose license has been suspended or revoked to return the
- 25 license in such manner as the board directs.
- 26 Section 12. Temporary suspension.
- 27 (a) Authority. -- The board may temporarily suspend a license
- 28 under circumstances as determined by the board to be of an
- 29 immediate and clear danger to the public health or safety.
- 30 (b) Procedure.--

- 1 (1) Upon a determination under subsection (a), the board
- 2 shall issue the licensee an order temporarily suspending the
- 3 license. The order must:
- 4 (i) be sent to the licensee's last known address;
- 5 and
- 6 (ii) include a written statement of all allegations
- 7 against the licensee.
- 8 (2) Upon of issuance of the order, the board must
- 9 commence an action under section 11 (relating to sanctions).
- 10 (3) A hearing under section 11(c) must be conducted
- 11 within 45 days of issuance of the order. If the board does
- 12 not comply with the time limit under this paragraph, the
- order shall be void.
- 14 (c) Duration.--A temporary suspension shall remain in effect
- 15 until the earliest of the following:
- 16 (1) The board vacates the suspension.
- 17 (2) The order is vacated because of noncompliance with
- 18 subsection (b)(3).
- 19 (3) The expiration of 180 days.
- 20 Section 13. Remedies.
- 21 (a) Civil penalty. -- Failure to provide a report under
- 22 section 15(e) (relating to impaired professional) within a
- 23 reasonable time from receipt of knowledge of impairment shall
- 24 subject the person to a civil penalty payable to the board not
- 25 to exceed \$1,000. The board may pursue this penalty in a court
- 26 of competent jurisdiction.
- 27 (b) Injunction. -- The board may seek injunctive relief in a
- 28 court of competent jurisdiction to enjoin a person from
- 29 committing any violation of this act. Relief under this section
- 30 is in addition to and not in lieu of all remedies and penalties

- 1 under sections 11 (relating to sanctions), 12 (relating to
- 2 temporary suspension) and 14 (relating to criminal penalties)
- 3 and other remedies in this act.
- 4 Section 14. Criminal penalties.
- 5 (a) Unlawful practice. -- Except as set forth in section
- 6 6(g)(2) or (3) (relating to licensure), an individual may not
- 7 practice massage therapy unless the individual has a license or
- 8 a temporary license.
- 9 (b) Fraud.--A person may not sell, fraudulently obtain or
- 10 fraudulently furnish a license or a temporary license.
- 11 (c) Unlawful use of title.--Except as set forth in section
- 12 16(1) (relating to other professions):
- 13 (1) An individual who is not a licensee may not use the
- title "Massage Therapist" or the abbreviation "M.T." It is a
- violation of this section to hold oneself out to others in
- any manner, including advertising, as a massage therapist and
- adopt or use any title or description, including massage
- 18 therapist, massage practitioner, masseur, masseuse,
- 19 myotherapist, or any derivative of those terms and their
- 20 related abbreviations, which implies directly or indirectly
- 21 that therapeutic massage services are being provided.
- 22 (2) A business entity may not utilize in connection with
- a business name or activity the words, "massage," "massage
- therapist, " "massage practitioner, " "masseur, " "masseuse" or
- 25 "myotherapist," or any derivative of those terms and their
- 26 related abbreviations, which imply directly or indirectly
- that massage therapy services are being provided.
- 28 (d) Failure to return license. -- An individual may not fail
- 29 to return a license under section 11(d) (relating to sanctions).
- 30 (e) Grading.--

- 1 (1) A person that violates subsection (a), (b) or (c)
- 2 commits a misdemeanor of the second degree.
- 3 (2) A person that violates subsection (d) commits a
- 4 misdemeanor of the third degree.
- 5 Section 15. Impaired professional.
- 6 (a) Consultant.--The board, with the approval of the
- 7 commissioner, shall appoint and fix the compensation of a
- 8 professional consultant who is a licensee or such other
- 9 professional as the board may determine, with education and
- 10 experience in the identification, treatment and rehabilitation
- 11 of persons with physical or mental impairments. The consultant
- 12 shall be accountable to the board and shall act as a liaison
- 13 between the board and treatment programs, such as alcohol and
- 14 drug treatment programs licensed by the Department of Health,
- 15 psychological counseling and impaired professional support
- 16 groups, which are approved by the board and which provide
- 17 services to licensees under this act.
- 18 (b) Treatment program. --
- 19 (1) The board shall approve program providers to treat
- 20 impaired professionals.
- 21 (2) An impaired professional who enrolls in an approved
- treatment program must enter into an agreement with the board
- 23 under which the impaired professional's license shall be
- suspended or revoked, but enforcement of that suspension or
- revocation may be stayed for the length of time the impaired
- 26 professional remains in the program and makes satisfactory
- 27 progress, complies with the terms of the agreement and
- 28 adheres to any limitations on this practice imposed by the
- 29 board to protect the public. Failure to enter into such an
- 30 agreement shall disqualify the professional from the impaired

- professional program and shall activate an immediate investigation and disciplinary proceeding by the board.
- 3 (3) An approved program provider shall, upon request,
- 4 disclose to the professional consultant information in its
- 5 possession regarding an impaired professional in treatment
- 6 which the program provider is not prohibited from disclosing
- 7 by state law. This paragraph shall apply in the case of an
- 8 impaired professional who:
- 9 (i) enters an agreement in accordance with this subsection;
- 11 (ii) is the subject of a board investigation or 12 disciplinary proceeding; or
 - (iii) voluntarily enters a treatment program other than under the provisions of this section but fails to complete the program successfully or to adhere to an aftercare plan developed by the program provider.
 - (c) Effect of participation. --
- 18 Except as set forth in paragraph (2), the board may 19 defer and ultimately vacate action under section 11 (relating 20 to sanctions) for an impaired professional as long as the 21 impaired professional is progressing satisfactorily in an 22 approved treatment program. If, in the opinion of the 23 professional consultant after consultation with the program 24 provider, an impaired professional who is enrolled in an 25 approved treatment program has not progressed satisfactorily, the professional consultant shall disclose to the board all 26 27 information in the professional consultant's possession 28 regarding the impaired professional, and the board shall 29 institute proceedings to determine if the stay of the enforcement of the suspension or revocation of the impaired 30

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- 1 professional's license shall be vacated.
- 2 (2) This subsection shall not apply to an impaired
- 3 professional:
- 4 (i) who has been sentenced for a felony under the
- 5 act of April 14, 1972 (P.L.233, No.64), known as The
- 6 Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act, or
- for a felony relating to a controlled substance in
- 8 another jurisdiction; or
- 9 (ii) has engaged in sexual exploitation.
- 10 (d) Immunity. -- The following shall not be subject to civil
- 11 liability or criminal prosecution for the disclosure or its
- 12 consequences:
- 13 (1) An approved program provider that makes a disclosure
- under subsection (b)(3) or (c)(1).
- 15 (2) A person that reports under subsection (e) in good
- 16 faith and without malice.
- 17 (e) Impairment reports.--
- 18 (1) Except as set forth in paragraph (2), this
- 19 subsection applies to hospital or health care facilities and
- to any peer or colleague of a licensee.
- 21 (2) This subsection does not apply to a person that acts
- in a treatment capacity to an impaired massage therapist in
- an approved treatment program.
- 24 (3) A person subject to this subsection shall report to
- 25 the board that a licensee is an impaired professional if the
- 26 person has substantial evidence that a licensee:
- 27 (i) has an active addictive disease for which the
- licensee is not receiving treatment;
- 29 (ii) is diverting a controlled substance; or
- 30 (iii) is mentally or physically incompetent to carry

- 1 out the duties of a licensee.
- 2 Section 16. Other professions.
- 3 Nothing in this act shall be construed as preventing,
- 4 restricting or requiring licensure of any of the following
- 5 activities:
- 6 (1) The practice of a profession by an individual who is
- 7 licensed, certified or registered by a Commonwealth agency
- 8 under other laws and who is performing services within the
- 9 authorized scope of practice.
- 10 (2) The practice of massage therapy by an individual
- employed by the Federal Government while the person is
- 12 engaged in the performance of such duties under Federal law.
- 13 (3) The practice of massage therapy by an individual
- licensed, registered or certified in another jurisdiction
- when incidentally called into this Commonwealth to teach a
- 16 course related to massage therapy and bodywork therapy or to
- 17 consult with a licensee.
- 18 (4) A student who is:
- 19 (i) conducting massage therapy activities under the
- 20 supervision of a person licensed under this act; and
- 21 (ii) enrolled in a school approved by the State
- 22 Board of Private Licensed Schools or by the board.
- 23 (5) Except as set forth in section 14(c) (relating to
- criminal penalties) the practice by an individual while
- 25 performing reflexology.
- 26 (6) Except as set forth in section 14(c), the practice
- of an individual who uses touch, words and directed movement
- 28 to deepen awareness of existing patterns of movement in the
- 29 body as well as to suggest new possibilities of movement
- 30 while engaged within the scope of practice of a profession

- 1 with established standards and ethics.
- 2 (7) Except as set forth in section 14(c), the practice
- of an individual who uses touch to affect the energy systems,
- 4 accupoints or Qi meridians (channels of energy) of the human
- 5 body while engaged within the scope of practice of a
- 6 profession with established standards and ethics.
- 7 (8) An individual providing service as part of an
- 8 emergency response team working in conjunction with disaster
- 9 relief officials.
- 10 (9) The practice of massage therapy at public events.
- 11 Section 49. Appropriation and repayment.
- 12 (a) Appropriation.--The sum of \$95,000, or as much thereof
- 13 as may be necessary is hereby appropriated from the Professional
- 14 Licensure Augmentation Account for the fiscal year July 1, 2005,
- 15 to June 30, 2006, for the operation of the State Board of
- 16 Professional Massage Therapists to carry out the provisions of
- 17 this act. This appropriation shall be a continuing appropriation
- 18 until June 30, 2009, at which time any unexpended funds shall
- 19 lapse into the account.
- 20 (b) Repayment.--The appropriation shall be repaid by the
- 21 board to the account within three years of the beginning of
- 22 issuance of licenses by the board.
- 23 Section 50. Effective date.
- 24 This act shall take effect as follows:
- 25 (1) The following provisions shall take effect in 60
- 26 days:
- 27 (i) Section 3.
- 28 (ii) Section 4.
- 29 (iii) Section 49.
- 30 (2) This section shall take effect immediately.

- 1 (3) The remainder of this act shall take effect upon
- 2 publication of the notice under section 4(i)(5).