

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Regulated Industries

BILL: SB 500

INTRODUCER: Senator Clemens

SUBJECT: Massage Establishments

DATE: March 12, 2013

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Kraemer	Imhof	RI	Pre-meeting
2.			CA	
3.			HP	
4.			AP	
5.				
6.				

I. Summary:

SB 500 amends various provisions relating to Massage Establishments. The bill creates s. 480.0475, F.S., to provide that the intent of the bill is to protect the public and the massage profession by targeting perpetrators engaged in human trafficking and prostitution in some massage establishments. The bill prohibits the operation of certain massage establishments between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. The bill exempts specified types of massage establishments based on location of the facility or the type of supervision over those persons performing massages. The bill prohibits the use of a massage establishment as a principal domicile in areas that are not zoned for residential use by local ordinance.

The bill increases the penalty for violation of s. 480.047, F.S. In addition to maintaining the current penalty for violation of the section as a first degree misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in jail and a fine not exceeding \$1,000, the bill states that a second or subsequent violation is a third degree felony. The punishment for conviction of a third degree felony is a term of imprisonment not to exceeding five years and a fine not exceeding \$5,000, with more severe penalties for repeat violators whose criminal history causes them to be classified as habitual felony offenders or habitual violent felony offenders.

The bill amends section 823.05, Florida Statutes, to provide that certain massage establishments that violate the bill's provisions or the identification provisions of ch. 480, F.S., can be declared nuisances that may be abated or enjoined pursuant to Florida law.

The bill provides an October 1, 2013 effective date.

The bill amends sections 480.047 and 823.05, Florida Statutes. The bill creates section 480.0475, Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Chapter 480, F.S., the “Massage Practice Act,” (act) regulates the practice of massage. The term “massage is defined as “the manipulation of the soft tissues of the human body with the hand, foot, arm, or elbow, whether or not such manipulation is aided by hydrotherapy, including colonic irrigation, or thermal therapy; any electrical or mechanical device; or the application to the human body of a chemical or herbal preparation.”¹

A person must apply to the Board of Massage Therapy (board) within the Department of Health (department) for approval to practice massage or to operate a massage establishment.² A “massage therapist” is a person licensed to administer massages for compensation,³ and a massage establishment is a “site or premises, or portion thereof, wherein a massage therapist practices massage.”⁴

Section 480.046(1), F.S., specifies numerous grounds for disciplinary action by the board,⁵ including the following acts that are grounds for denial of a license or disciplinary action:

- Procuring a license by bribery or fraudulent misrepresentation;
- Having a license to practice massage denied, revoked, suspended, or otherwise acted against by the licensing authority of another state, territory, or country;
- Being convicted, found guilty or entering a plea of nolo contendere, regardless of adjudication, of a crime in any jurisdiction which directly relates to the practice of massage or to the ability to practice massage;
- False, deceptive, or misleading advertising;
- Aiding, assisting, procuring, or advising any unlicensed person to practice massage in violation of the act or a rule of the department or the board;
- Making deceptive, untrue, or fraudulent representations in the practice of massage;
- Being unable to practice massage with reasonable skill and safety because of illness or use of alcohol, drugs, narcotics, chemicals, or any other type of material, or due to any mental or physical condition;
- Gross or repeated malpractice or the failure to practice massage with that level of care, skill, and treatment which is recognized by a reasonably prudent massage therapist as being acceptable under similar conditions and circumstances;
- Practicing or offering to practice beyond the scope permitted by law or accepting and performing professional responsibilities which the licensee knows or has reason to know that she or he is not competent to perform;
- Delegating professional responsibilities to a person when the licensee delegating such responsibilities knows or has reason to know that such person is not qualified by training, experience, or licensure to perform;

¹Section 480.033(3), F.S.

²Section 480.033(8), F.S.

³Section 480.033(4), F.S.

⁴Section 480.033(7), F.S.

⁵Section 480.046, F.S.

- Violating a lawful order of the board or department previously entered in a disciplinary hearing, or failing to comply with a lawfully issued subpoena of the department;
- Refusing to permit the department to inspect the business premises of the licensee during regular business hours;
- Failing to keep the equipment and premises of the massage establishment in a clean and sanitary condition;
- Practicing massage at a site, location, or place which is not duly licensed as a massage establishment, excepting certain services permitted by board rule, at the residence or office of a client, at a sports event, at a convention, or at a trade show; or
- Violating any provision of the act, ch. 456, F.S., regarding Health Professions and Occupations, or any rules adopted pursuant to the provisions.

Pursuant to s. 480.046(2), F.S., licensure may also be denied, or certain penalties imposed, against licensees found guilty of violating any of the provision of s. 480.046(1) and s. 456.072(1), F.S. The penalties include:

- Refusal to certify, or to certify with restrictions, an application for a license.
- Suspension or permanent revocation of a license.
- Restriction of practice or license, including, but not limited to, restricting the licensee from practicing in certain settings, restricting the licensee to work only under designated conditions or in certain settings, restricting the licensee from performing or providing designated clinical and administrative services, restricting the licensee from practicing more than a designated number of hours, or any other restriction found to be necessary for the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare.
- Imposition of an administrative fine not to exceed \$10,000 for each count or separate offense. If the violation is for fraud or making a false or fraudulent representation, the board, or the department if there is no board, must impose a fine of \$10,000 per count or offense.
- Issuance of a reprimand or letter of concern.
- Placement of the licensee on probation for a period of time and subject to such conditions as the board, or the department when there is no board, may specify. Those conditions may include, but are not limited to, requiring the licensee to undergo treatment, attend continuing education courses, submit to be reexamined, work under the supervision of another licensee, or satisfy any terms which are reasonably tailored to the violations found.
- Corrective action.
- Imposition of an administrative fine in accordance with s. 381.0261 for violations regarding patient rights.
- Refund of fees billed and collected from the patient or a third party on behalf of the patient.
- Requirement that the practitioner undergo remedial education.

The board also has the power to revoke or suspend the license of a massage establishment or deny subsequent licensure if the license was obtained by fraud or misrepresentation or the

licensee was found guilty of fraud, deceit, gross negligence, incompetency, or misconduct in the operation of the establishment.⁶

Disciplinary proceedings shall be conducted pursuant to the provisions of ch. 120, F.S., the Administrative Procedure Act.⁷

Sexual misconduct in the practice of massage therapy is prohibited, and is defined as violation of the massage therapist-patient relationship through which the massage therapist uses that relationship to induce or attempt to induce the patient to engage, or to engage or attempt to engage the patient, in sexual activity outside the scope of practice or the scope of generally accepted examination or treatment of the patient.⁸

Violations of the law or rules associated with practices of massage therapists and massage establishments are investigated by the department.⁹ Sexual activity by any person or persons in any massage establishment is also prohibited.¹⁰

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 480.0475(1), F.S., sets forth legislative intent to protect the public and the massage profession from those persons operating massage establishments that engage in illegal activity, and to address the needs of victims of human trafficking and penalties against persons perpetuating human trafficking.

The bill restricts the time of operations for certain massage establishments, by prohibiting operations between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. The bill creates exclusions from the time restrictions for the following massage establishments:

- Located on the premises of an ambulatory surgical center, a hospice, a nursing home, a hospital, a diagnostic-imaging center, a freestanding or hospital-based therapy center, a clinical laboratory, a home health agency, a cardiac catheterization laboratory, a medical equipment supplier, an alcohol or chemical dependency treatment center, a physical rehabilitation center, a lithotripsy center, an ambulatory care center, a birth center, or certain licensed nursing home components.¹¹
- Located in the premises of a hotel, motel or bed and breakfast as defined in s. 509.242, F.S.
- In which every massage performed between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. is performed by a massage therapist acting under the direction of licensed persons such as physicians, physicians' assistants, chiropractic physicians, podiatric physicians, advanced registered nurse practitioners or dentists.

⁶ 480.046(3), F.S.

⁷Section 480.046(4), F.S.

⁸Section 480.0485, F.S. Section 456.063, F.S., prohibits violation of the professional relationship through which the health care practitioner uses such relationship to engage or attempt to engage the patient or client, or an immediate family member, guardian, or representative of the patient or client in, or to induce or attempt to induce such person to engage in, verbal or physical sexual activity outside the scope of the professional practice of such health care profession.

⁹Section 480.039, F.S.

¹⁰See Rule 64B7-26.010, F.A.C., which provides a definition of sexual activity.

¹¹Section 408.07(24), F.S.

The bill prohibits the use of a massage establishment as a principal domicile unless the establishment is zoned for residential use by local ordinance. The phrase “principal domicile” is not defined, however, a legal domicile in Florida may be evidenced in accordance with s. 222.17, F.S., by a person filing a sworn statement at the office of the Clerk of Circuit Court showing that he or she “resides in and maintains a place of abode in that county which he or she recognizes and intends to maintain as his or her permanent home.”

A person convicted of a first degree misdemeanor for violating s. 480.0475, F.S., may be sentenced to up to one year in jail and a fine not exceeding \$1,000.¹² A person may be convicted of a third degree felony for a second or subsequent violation, and may be sentenced to a term of imprisonment not exceeding five years and a fine not to exceed \$5,000.¹³ More severe consequences result for offenders classified as habitual felony offenders, habitual violent felony offenders, or three-time violent felony offenders.¹⁴

The bill amends s. 823.05, F.S., to declare that a massage establishment that operates in violation of the restrictions on hours of operation, or that fails to immediately present to an investigator of the department or a law enforcement officer, all required government identification for each employee or for any person performing massage in the establishment is a nuisance and may be abated¹⁵ or enjoined pursuant to ss. 60.06 and 60.06, F.S.

Sections 60.05, F.S., provides that when a nuisance defined in s. 823.05, F.S., exists, the Attorney General, state attorney, city attorney, county attorney, or any citizen of the county may sue in the name of the state to enjoin the nuisance, the person or persons maintaining it, and the owner or agent of the building or ground on which the nuisance exists. In accordance with s. 60.06, F.S., the court shall enter orders to abate the nuisance, and has the authority to enforce injunctions by contempt.

The bill provides an October 1, 2013 effective date.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

¹²See ss. 775.082 and 775.083, F.S.

¹³*Id.*

¹⁴See s. 775.084, F.S.

¹⁵Abated is defined as eliminated or put an end to (Black’s Law Dictionary (9th ed. 2009)).

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

The bill will limit the operating hours of massage establishments that are not otherwise excluded from the time restriction between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. Since the use of a massage establishment as a principal domicile is no longer permitted unless the location of the establishment is zoned for residential use by local ordinance, operators will be required to discontinue any existing use and monitor their locations for compliance by its employees in the future unless the establishment is located in a zoning classification that includes residential use.

C. Government Sector Impact:

There may be additional disciplinary proceedings investigated by the Department of Health and prosecuted by the Board of Massage. The Criminal Justice Impact Conference has not yet determined the impact of the bill. The Department of Corrections anticipates that the impact of the bill will be insignificant on the prison population and minimal on the community supervision population.¹⁶

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Additional Information:**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

¹⁶See 2013 Legislative Analysis for SB 500, Office of Legislative Affairs, Florida Department of Corrections, January 31, 2013.