



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 679

HOUSE BILL NO. 2080

By Representatives Howell, Daniel

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 2466

By Senators Roberts, Stevens

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63, Chapter 12, relative to animal massage.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-12-133, is amended by deleting subsection (d) in its entirety.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63, Chapter 12, is amended by adding Sections 3 through 6 as a new part.

SECTION 3. As used in this part:

(1) "Animal massage therapy" means the manipulation of the soft tissues of the animal body with the intention of positively affecting the health and well-being of the animal. "Animal massage therapy" does not include the diagnosis, treatment, correction, alleviation, or prevention of any animal disease, illness, pain, deformity, defect, injury, or other physical or mental condition, or otherwise constitute the practice of veterinary medicine;

(2) "Certified animal massage therapist" means a person who qualifies for, and voluntarily obtains, certification under this part; and

(3) "Registered animal massage therapist" means a person who qualifies for, and voluntarily obtains, certification under this part.

SECTION 4.

(a) No person shall use the title "certified animal massage therapist" or "registered animal massage therapist" unless the person meets the requirements of this part.

(b) This part shall not prohibit any person from rendering or offering to render animal massage therapy services; provided, that a person who is not certified or registered under this part shall not use, or knowingly allow themselves to be identified by, the title "certified animal massage therapist" or "registered animal massage therapist".

(c) Persons who hold themselves out as certified animal massage therapists or registered animal massage therapists without complying with Section 5 of this act are in violation of the Tennessee Consumer Protection Act, compiled in title 47, chapter 18, part 1.

SECTION 5. In order to use the term "certified animal massage therapist" or "registered animal massage therapist", a person must:

(1) Complete at least fifty (50) hours of training in anatomy and physiology, kinesiology, and pathologies in order to gain aptitude in preventing the delay of care to animals;

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(2) Complete at least fifty (50) hours of supervised in-class hands-on work, which would include assessment and execution of bodywork skills being studied, benefits of massage, benefits of acupuncture, and practice guidelines;

(3) Take and pass an examination by the National Board of Certification for Animal Acupuncture and Massage or a comparable examination that tests the aptitude in the course of training described in subdivisions (1) and (2); and

(4) Post a surety bond under Section 6 of this act.

SECTION 6. A person practicing animal massage therapy shall obtain liability insurance in the amount of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for the benefit of any person who is damaged because of the negligence of the person in the performance of animal massage therapy services.


SECTION 7. This act shall take effect at 12:01 a.m. on July 1, 2018, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: March 28, 2018



BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RANDY MCNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 12th day of April 2018



BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR