

HOUSE BILL 2080

By Howell

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) "Department" means the department of health.

SECTION 4.

(a) No person shall use the title "certified animal massage therapist" unless the person is certified under 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 under this

part shall not use, or knowingly allow themselves to be identified by, the title "certified animal massage therapist".

SECTION 5. The department shall issue a certification for animal massage therapy to a person who applies to the department for the certification, posts a surety bond under Section 6 of this act, and demonstrates to the satisfaction of the department that the applicant has:

(1) Completed 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; and

(2) Taken and passed an examination that tests the aptitude in the course of training described in subdivision (1).

SECTION 6. A person practicing animal massage therapy shall file with the department a surety bond 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. Any person so damaged may sue directly on the bond without assignment of the bond. The liability of the surety under any bond may not exceed in the aggregate the amount of the bond. If the bond ceases to be in effect and the person who posted the bond is certified under this part, the animal massage therapist's certification shall become invalid.

SECTION 7. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.