

Senate Engrossed

massage therapy; continuation; study committee

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-seventh Legislature
First Regular Session
2025

SENATE BILL 1656

AN ACT

REPEALING SECTION 41-3025.10, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; AMENDING TITLE 41, CHAPTER 27, ARTICLE 2, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING SECTION 41-3027.09; RELATING TO THE BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Repeal

3 Section 41-3025.10, Arizona Revised Statutes, is repealed.

4 Sec. 2. Title 41, chapter 27, article 2, Arizona Revised Statutes,
5 is amended by adding section 41-3027.09, to read:

6 41-3027.09. Board of massage therapy; termination July 1,
7 2027

8 A. THE BOARD OF MESSAGE THERAPY TERMINATES ON JULY 1, 2027.

9 B. TITLE 32, CHAPTER 42 AND THIS SECTION ARE REPEALED ON JANUARY 1,
10 2028.

11 Sec. 3. Board of massage therapy continuation study
12 committee; membership; duties; report; delayed
13 repeal

14 A. The board of massage therapy continuation study committee is
15 established consisting of the following members:

16 1. Three members of the senate who are appointed by the president
17 of the senate, not more than two of whom are members of the same political
18 party. The president of the senate shall designate one of these members
19 to serve as cochairperson of the committee.

20 2. Three members of the house of representatives who are appointed
21 by the speaker of the house of representatives, not more than two of whom
22 are members of the same political party. The speaker of the house of
23 representatives shall designate one of these members to serve as
24 cochairperson of the committee.

25 3. The executive director of the governor's office of boards and
26 commissions, or the executive director's designee.

27 4. The executive director of the board of massage therapy, or the
28 executive director's designee.

29 5. A representative of private postsecondary schools who is
30 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

31 6. A representative of law enforcement who is appointed by the
32 president of the senate.

33 7. A representative of a state or national massage therapy
34 association who is appointed by the president of the senate.

35 8. A representative of a national association of massage therapy
36 licensing boards and agencies whose primary interest is public and
37 consumer protection and who is appointed by the president of the senate.

38 B. Members of the study committee are not eligible to receive
39 compensation but are eligible for reimbursement of expenses pursuant to
40 title 38, chapter 4, article 2, Arizona Revised Statutes.

41 C. The study committee shall study the board of massage therapy and
42 make recommendations regarding all of the following:

43 1. Whether the board of massage therapy should continue in its
44 current form, remain a stand-alone health board or be combined with an
45 existing board.

1 2. The state's role in expediting background checks.

2 3. Whether the board of massage therapy's information technology
3 project that was implemented beginning in February 2025 is sufficient to
4 deal with existing issues.

5 4. Whether an establishment license should be required in this
6 state as a tool to eliminate sex trafficking.

7 D. In fulfilling the study committee's requirements under
8 subsection C of this section, the study committee shall collect:

9 1. Comparable data points between any previous technology and the
10 new technology solution implemented in February 2025.

11 2. Feedback from stakeholders, licensed massage therapists
12 throughout this state, local law enforcement agencies and victims'
13 services advocates to make any recommended change to the structure of the
14 board of massage therapists or to implement any additional licensure
15 types.

16 E. The study committee shall produce a report not later than
17 December 31, 2026 that includes the recommendations made pursuant to
18 subsection C of this section. The study committee shall submit the report
19 to the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of
20 representatives and shall submit a copy to the secretary of state.

21 F. This section is repealed from and after June 30, 2027.

22 Sec. 4. Purpose

23 Pursuant to section 41-2955, subsection B, Arizona Revised Statutes,
24 the legislature continues the board of massage therapy to promote the safe
25 practice of massage therapy by qualified professionals in this state.

26 Sec. 5. Retroactivity

27 Sections 1 and 2 of this act apply retroactively to from and after
28 July 1, 2025.

29 Sec. 6. Emergency

30 This act is an emergency measure that is necessary to preserve the
31 public peace, health or safety and is operative immediately as provided by
32 law.