

1995 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 546

Offered January 23, 1995

Requesting the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to study the feasibility of regulating the practice of massage therapy in the Commonwealth.

Patrons—Fisher, Hamilton and Morgan; Senator: Howell

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, individuals have come to accept the practice of massage therapy as a valid treatment; and

WHEREAS, some jurisdictions license nonmedical professionals to practice massage therapy; and WHEREAS, many citizens of the Commonwealth find it useful to obtain the services of a massage therapist; and

WHEREAS, many localities are currently having to establish ordinances for the practice of massage therapy because of the lack of state guidance; and

WHEREAS, health care costs continue to rise and the massage therapy profession offers an attractive alternative for effective treatment at lower costs; and

WHEREAS, the massage therapy profession is the second fastest growing business in the nation; and

WHEREAS, access to this treatment should be provided to those Virginians who desire it; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Secretary of Health and Human Resources be requested to conduct a study to determine whether the practice of massage therapy should be regulated, and the fiscal impact of such regulation, and to recommend any legislative action it deems appropriate. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, upon request.

The Secretary shall complete its work in time to submit its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the 1996 Session of the General Assembly as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for processing legislative documents.

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