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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **sHB 6243**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRACTICE OF THAI YOGA.***

#### **SUMMARY:**

PA 12-64 added “Thai yoga” and “Thai yoga massage” to the list of terms or titles that can appear in advertising for massage therapy services only if performed by a licensed massage therapist.

This bill exempts Thai yoga or Thai yoga massage performed by people with specified training from the definition of “massage therapy,” thus allowing such people to practice Thai yoga or Thai yoga massage without a massage therapist license. The bill also exempts such people from the advertising restriction noted above.

The bill applies to people who practice Thai yoga or Thai yoga massage who are (1) registered as yoga teachers with the Yoga Alliance Registry and (2) have completed 200 hours of training in Thai yoga.

Thai yoga and Thai yoga massage involve assisted yoga stretching, acupressure, related movements, and meditation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2013

#### **BACKGROUND**

##### ***Massage Therapy Definition***

Existing law defines “massage therapy” as the systematic and scientific manipulation and treatment of the body’s soft tissues using pressure, friction, stroking, percussion, kneading, vibration by manual or mechanical means, range of motion, and nonspecific stretching. It may include the use of oils, ice, steam, and similar amenities, but does not include diagnosis, prescribing medications, spinal or other joint manipulations, or any services and procedures for which the law requires a license to practice medicine, chiropractic, naturopathy,

physical therapy, or podiatry (CGS § 20-206a).

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 28 Nay 0 (04/05/2013)