



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 571**

January Session, 2013

Substitute House Bill No. 6243

*House of Representatives, April 18, 2013*

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. JOHNSON of the 49th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

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

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 20-206g of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

3 (a) As used in this section, "advertise" includes, but is not limited to,  
4 the issuance of any card, sign or device to any person; causing,  
5 permitting or allowing any sign or marking on or in any building,  
6 vehicle or structure; advertising in any newspaper or magazine, or the  
7 placement of any listing or advertisement in any directory under a  
8 classification or heading that includes the words "massage", "massage  
9 therapist", "massage therapy", "massage therapy establishment",  
10 "shiatsu", "acupressure", "Thai massage", "Thai yoga massage" or "Thai  
11 yoga".

12 (b) No person, firm, partnership or corporation shall advertise any  
13 of the services included in the definition of massage therapy in any  
14 manner using the term or title "massage", "shiatsu", "acupressure",

15 "Thai massage", "Thai yoga massage" or "Thai yoga", except as  
16 provided in subsection (e) of this section, unless such services are  
17 performed by a massage therapist.

18 (c) Each person who holds a license as a massage therapist shall  
19 include his or her license number in any advertisement for such  
20 person's massage therapy services that appears in a newspaper,  
21 telephone directory or other advertising medium.

22 (d) It shall be a violation of this section for any person who does not  
23 hold a current license as a massage therapist to advertise massage  
24 therapy services by using the term "massage", "massage therapist",  
25 "licensed massage therapist", "massage practitioner", "massagist",  
26 "masseur" or "masseuse", "shiatsu", "acupressure", "Thai massage",  
27 "Thai yoga massage" or "Thai yoga", except as provided in subsection  
28 (e) of this section.

29 (e) A person who does not hold a current license as a massage  
30 therapist but who is registered as a yoga teacher with the Yoga  
31 Alliance Registry and has completed two hundred hours of training in  
32 Thai yoga may advertise "Thai yoga massage" or "Thai yoga" services.

33 Sec. 2. Section 20-206a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
34 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

35 As used in subsection (c) of section 19a-14, and sections 20-206a to  
36 20-206g, inclusive, as amended by this act:

37 (a) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Public Health.

38 (b) "Department" means the Department of Public Health.

39 (c) "Massage therapist" means a person who has been licensed to  
40 practice massage therapy under the provisions of sections 20-206a to  
41 20-206f, inclusive.

42 (d) "Massage therapy" means the systematic and scientific  
43 manipulation and treatment of the soft tissues of the body, by use of

44 pressure, friction, stroking, percussion, kneading, vibration by manual  
 45 or mechanical means, range of motion and nonspecific stretching.  
 46 Massage therapy may include the use of oil, ice, hot and cold packs,  
 47 tub, shower, steam, dry heat, or cabinet baths, for the purpose of, but  
 48 not limited to, maintaining good health and establishing and  
 49 maintaining good physical and mental condition. Massage therapy  
 50 does not encompass (1) diagnosis, the prescribing of drugs or  
 51 medicines, spinal or other joint manipulations, [nor] (2) any service or  
 52 procedure for which a license to practice medicine, chiropractic,  
 53 natureopathy, physical therapy, or podiatry is required by law, or (3)  
 54 Thai yoga or Thai yoga massage practiced by a person who is  
 55 registered as a yoga teacher with the Yoga Alliance Registry and has  
 56 completed two hundred hours of training in Thai yoga.

57 (e) "Massage" shall have the same meaning as "massage therapy", as  
 58 defined in subsection (d) of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2013	20-206g
Sec. 2	October 1, 2013	20-206a

**PH**            *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

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**OFA Fiscal Note****State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

There is no fiscal impact to exempt Thai yoga massage or Thai yoga from advertising prohibitions as the Department of Public Health does not investigate complaints related to advertisements of massage therapy nor does it cause local health departments to do so.

**The Out Years****State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

**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)