

Senate Executive Departments and Administration Committee

Ben Mickens 271-1403

HB 1458-FN, relative to the licensing of massage establishments and massage, reflexology, structural integration, and Asian bodywork facilities.

Hearing Date: April 15, 2026

Time Opened: 9:01 a.m.

Time Closed: 9:21 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Pearl, Gannon, Lang, Altschiller and Reardon

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill establishes a licensure requirement to operate massage establishments and massage, reflexology, structural integration, and Asian bodywork facilities and establishes standards for the operation of such facilities.

Sponsors:

Rep. Layon

Rep. Harriott-Gathright

Rep. Lascelles

Rep. Tripp

Who supports the bill: Representative Erica Layon, Representative Daniel Popovici-Muller, and Representative Carol McGuire.

Who opposes the bill: Cory Stone and Daniel Richardson.

Who is neutral on the bill: No one.

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Representative Erica Layon

- Representative Layon explained how she has been working on legislation to help fight sex trafficking at local and state level.
- Representative Layon stated that the goal was to move beyond inspections and try to make New Hampshire a bad place for sex traffickers to operate.
- Representative Layon detailed the ways in which illicit massage parlors can close and reestablish as different LLCs to try and circumvent the standards in place.

- Representative Layon explained how the use of social security numbers and background checks can weed out bad actors more effectively than the systems in place.
- Representative Layon explained there is some duplication of language in the legislation since there are multiple places in which statute needs to be changed in the same ways.
- Representative Layon detailed how the bill is structured to be low cost to the state.

Senator Altschiller asked if the New Hampshire Human Trafficking Collaborative Task Force worked with the sponsors on crafting this legislation.

Representative Layon stated there was discussion in which there was common agreement on the issue of identification and stated that if there are any concerns from members she hopes they are stated in this hearing.

Senator Lang asked if we should be citing which laws might be used to deny license.

Representative Layon stated that the language was taken from existing statute to ensure effectiveness.

Senator Pearl asked why there are two practitioners for reflexologists but only one for massage therapists to get an exemption.

Representative Layon stated she believes that there may have been an oversight in the amendment process and defers to the committee if the general standard should be two or one. Additionally, there might be a change from proprietor to body work proprietor in Section 7.

Senator Pearl asked about a situation where two people own a massage parlor but only one has a license. Would this bill preclude both from being owners?

Representative Layon stated there was discussion on taking out the licensure requirement, but the committee came to this conclusion. It could work to require only one owner to be licensed.

Senator Pearl asked if she was open to changes on that front.

Representative Layon confirmed.

Representative Carol McGuire

- Representative McGuire stated she supports the bill, although reluctantly.
- Representative McGuire believes it does impose some regulations on regular business but considering the circumstances there needs to be protection for people and this bill represents a good first step.

Senator Pearl asked if there was any concern that this might move the illegal activities to a different license that does not have these restrictions.

Representative McGuire stated that massage parlors are particularly favored as a front.

Senator Pearl suggested potential for something like physical therapy to be used as a front.

Representative McGuire stated hopefully the restrictions are very disruptive to the use of this industry as a front. However, other industries would not be as easy to abuse.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: None.

Neutral Information Presented: None.