

One Hundred Fifth Legislature - First Session - 2017

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB596

Chairperson: Senator Merv Riepe

Committee: Health and Human Services

Date of Hearing: March 09, 2017

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 596 provides an exemption for those involved in the practice of equine massage from regulation by the Department of Health and Human Services. The bill defines the specific actions that someone in equine massage therapy can perform hands-on techniques to do the following:

(1) increasing circulation, (2) relaxing muscle spasms, (3) relieving tension, (4) enhancing muscle tone, and (5) increasing range of motion in high performance horses

It clarifies that an unlicensed assistant does not include a person engaged in equine massage therapy and that a veterinarian license is not required for any person to practice equine massage therapy.

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) reported that there have been no applications received and no licenses issued for animal massage therapy. No educational program offering animal massage therapy has been reviewed or approved by the Board of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery in animal massage since no one has applied for this license.

There are horses being denied massage services in Nebraska because of undue government regulation.

The DHHS reports that their Investigations Unit has not received any complaints regarding individuals offering equine massage therapy.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Mike Groene