

What has happened to Reflexology in North Carolina?

- Reflexologists have been free to practice in North Carolina since the 1920's. It was 1919 when Eunice Ingham, physiotherapist, worked with Dr. Joe Shelby Riley DC, and Dr. William FitzGerald ENT, two American physicians, to develop reflexology.
- In 1991 the American Reflexology Certification Board (ARCB) was created setting the highest testing standards to which professional reflexologists aspire. The goal of national certification is to promote reflexology and protect the public through competent professional reflexologists.
- In 1999 the North Carolina Board of Massage and Body Therapy (NCBMBT) formed. They wanted reflexology under their umbrella. We, reflexologists, fought back and an exemption was granted. Likewise, in 1999 the North Carolina Reflexology Association (NCRA) formed.
- In June 2018 Charles Wilkins, lawyer for NCBMBT, requested a meeting with NCRA. On July 23, 2018, we met along with ARCB board members. Charles announced they, NCBMBT, were removing our exemption in the Guidelines, 1.11 G.S. 90-624 (7), under the guise of human trafficking.
- There have never been any claims of any nationally certified reflexologist being involved in any form of human trafficking. The claims Charles Wilkins and NCBMBT made referred to illicit 'Asian/Chinese' massage parlors and individuals who are not part of NCRA or ARCB.
- In October 2018 NCRA sought legal advice with attorney, Jack Nichols, who specializes in licensing. He advised us to be wary of being 'grandfathered in' and to lobby to have our exemption written into law. We then hired a lobbyist, Jessica Proctor of North State Solutions, in December 2018.
- North Carolina does not want another licensing board; we were told this by many sources. Protecting reflexology, the public and preventing human trafficking are all important. Requiring that reflexologists practicing in NC be nationally certified became the most logical path forward.
- In January 2019 we secured 3 x Senate Sponsors: Gunn, Sanderson, and Wells and on April 2, 2019, our bill **S527, 'Reflexology Reform Act'** was filed, requiring national certification to practice in NC. Bill **S527** got held up in the health care committee and did not survive crossover.
- On August 15, 2019, NCBMBT removed the 'energy-based techniques' exemption and added reflexology to a list that needs to be licensed. This would have meant reflexologists would be required to go to massage school for approximately \$20K each before doing anything pertaining to reflexology.
- On September 17, 2019, an '**Agreement**' was drawn up between NCRA and NCBMBT, mediated by Representative Riddell, and signed by both parties in December 2019 stating that **current** nationally certified reflexologists and those who become nationally certified by March 31, 2020, will be free to work.
- With the need to protect the **future** of reflexology, 2 x House Representative Sponsors: Riddell and Warren introduced a new bill, **H434**, which was filed March 29, 2021. Charles Wilkins did not like that we are trying to get a law passed and on July 16, 2021, emailed threatening that our '**Agreement**' 'is in jeopardy'.

**Please help protect current AND future of reflexologists in NC by supporting H911 and or H434.
Keep reflexology alive in North Carolina!**