

WHAT LEGISLATORS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MASSAGE THERAPY REGULATION

The American Massage Therapy Association® recognizes that state government regulation of the practice of massage therapy is a desirable means of meeting the needs of the public and the profession.

Education

- a licensure qualification consisting of successful completion of a professional course of study consisting of at least five hundred hours of supervised education authenticated by a single provider, with content well distributed in the subjects of anatomy, physiology, hygiene, ethics, massage theory and research, and massage practice
- a licensure qualification consisting of passing an examination which has met national accreditation standards and which is administered by a body independent of the education provider, with content that covers the subjects in a professional course of study

Reciprocity

- a means of recognizing, for the purpose of licensure, a valid license held by a practitioner which has been granted by another state government

Exemptions

- exemption from licensure for any person whose practice is not conducted so as to imply in anyway that it is the practice of massage therapy and who does not hold out to the public that the practice is massage therapy.

Regulatory Agency/Board

- powers and duties of the massage therapy regulatory agency that are customary for the regulation of other health care professions in the state.
- an authoritative or advisory board of massage therapy, with a majority comprised of massage therapists, and special provisions for the initial appointment of qualified massage therapists as board members whose terms will begin before any licenses have been issued.

The association believes that the following combination of benefits derives uniquely from state licensure:

- protection of the public through the establishment of high standards for entry into the profession.
- protection of the public through the regulation of practice and recourse to effective disciplinary action.
- fair and uniform regulation applying to the whole state
- the right of massage therapists to define their practice, through proposed legislation and through regulation under an authoritative or advisory board of massage therapy