

HEATHER BAGNALL
Legislative District 33
Anne Arundel County

Health and Government Operations
Committee



Annapolis Office
The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 160
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3406 • 301-858-3406
800-492-7122 Ext. 3406
Heather.Bagnall@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 4, 2026

HB42 Health Occupations – State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners – Revisions

Good afternoon Madame Vice Chair and members of the Health Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you about House Bill 42.

HB42 makes technical revisions to the massage therapy registration and licensure processes. The impetus for the bill dates back to the passage of 2022 HB220, which established a framework by which the existing massage therapy registration will be phased out to be replaced by a formal license. Under that legislation, the sunset for the registration process was set at September 30, 2026, at which point any practicing massage therapist that has not yet received licensure will be required to apply for it. HB42 adds language allowing those with current, unexpired registrations (i.e., those granted before the initial implementation date of October 1, 2023) to retain their registration for the remainder of its period, at which time they will need to apply for full licensure. Additionally, the bill clarifies requirements for licensure for applicants who completed educational and training programs outside of Maryland and allows the licensure Board to issue a fine in the event a licensee does not update the Board within 60 days of a change in their name or address without a disciplinary hearing.

I respectfully request a favorable report on House Bill 42.