

Good afternoon, Chair Bagnall and members of the Health Committee. My name is Sabrina Lopez, Vice-Chair of the Maryland Board of Massage Therapy Examiners. I am here today to request a favorable with amendments report on HB 975.

HB 975 seeks to modernize and clarify advertising standards within our profession. By requiring advertisements to align with official licensure records, we protect consumers and ensure that Marylanders can easily verify the credentials of their healthcare providers.

However, to ensure this bill is both enforceable for the Board and practical for practitioners, I respectfully request the following amendments.

Amendment 1: Replace page 2, lines 15-26 with “If an advertisement lists the names of the licensed massage therapist or registered massage practitioner, the name displayed must be consistent with the names in which the board issued the license or registration. On Page 2, Strike “F”

This simplifies the requirements for practitioners. It ensures that the public can cross-reference an ad directly with the board's database without the confusion of nicknames or aliases, while removing redundant or overly prescriptive language in section (f).

Amendment 2: In 6-401(a), add “(4) Establish administrative penalties for any violation of this section, subject to the hearing provisions in 6-309”

For the board to effectively uphold these new standards, we must have the authority to issue administrative penalties. This amendment ensures that there are clear consequences for non-compliance, while maintaining due process through established hearing provisions.

These amendments provide the board with the necessary tools to regulate the profession effectively while providing practitioners with a clear, singular standard for identifying themselves to the public.

I respectfully request a favorable with amendments report on HB 975.