



February 25, 2020

## **HB 751**

### **State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners -License and Registration - Criminal History Records Checks**

The American Massage Therapy Association – Maryland Chapter requests your favorable vote on HB 751.

This bill will provide the Maryland Board of Massage Therapy Examiners (MBMTE) access to the new technology offered by the Criminal Justice Information System Central Repository to receive information about changes to licensee's and registrants' criminal history in a timelier matter. Currently, updates are not received by the board until self-reported during the bi-annual renewal period or reported by another party.

Passage of this bill will put the Maryland Board of Massage Therapy Examiners in line with the following other health boards that have already enacted similar legislation; Audiology, Speech Language Pathologists, Nursing Administrators, Chiropractic, Nursing, Occupational Therapists, Physicians, Professional Counselors, and Social Work.

There will be an impact to licensees and registrants; of the approximately 4000 licensed massage therapists and registered massage practitioners in Maryland, approximately 2500 would be required to get new fingerprints to comply with the law, the cost of which is approximately \$50-\$60 per person. This is an additional burden of time and expense that we find reasonable considering the benefits of the new system for the MBMTE and their responsibility to protect the public.

Thank you for your consideration.

American Massage Therapy Association - Maryland Chapter  
md.wp.amtamassage.org (847) 905-1428  
Amelia Mitchell – Government Relations Chair: vp1.amta.maryland@gmail.com