

SENATOR SARAH ELFRETH  
*Legislative District 30*  
Anne Arundel County

Budget and Taxation Committee

*Subcommittees*

Education, Business and Administration

Chair, Pensions

*Senate Chair*

Joint Committee on Administrative,  
Executive, and Legislative Review

Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and  
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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 2, 2021

**Testimony in Favor of SB745**  
**Health Occupations - State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners - Revisions**

Chairman Pinsky, Vice-Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee:

I respectfully request a favorable report of Senate Bill 745 to update Maryland law to:

1. Standardize the curriculum for massage students across the State;
2. Modernize the criminal background check process;
3. Remove outdated terms such as: effleurage, petrissage, tapotement, laying of hands - and replaces these terms with clear language: stroking, kneading, tapping, and hands on application, respectively;
4. Replace the CDC guidelines on universal precautions with the correctly named CDC guidelines on standard precautions;
5. Eliminate unnecessary language regarding insurance coverage.

The two biggest changes this legislation will make, as requested by the State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners, are on the curriculum and criminal background check process, numbers 1 and 2 above.

**Standardizing the curriculum** to the Commission on Massage Therapy Accreditation (COMTA) endorsed curriculum will bring a higher level and more consistent standards to all massage therapy training courses. This curriculum, or very similar guidelines, are already being used by most community colleges and will ensure that students are adequately prepared for their future career and the Maryland Board is assured that their education has properly prepared them.

**Modernizing the criminal background check process** by adding the Board of Massage Therapy Examiners to the Criminal Justice Information System Central Repository will match what the Health Occupation Boards for audiology, speech language pathologists, occupational therapists and many more have already done. Additionally it will give the Board of Massage Therapy Examiners the tools they need to more appropriately investigate and take action on criminal activity.

Today you will hear directly from the Board as well as from the Maryland Chapter of the American Massage Therapy Association. Once again I respectfully request a favorable report of Senate Bill 745.=