



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

**Board of Physical Therapy Examiners  
4201 Patterson Avenue, Suite 304  
Baltimore, MD 21215-2299**

March 12, 2024

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk  
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee  
Room 241, House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: HB 1327 – Maryland Department of Health – Body Altering Aesthetics Advisory Committee**

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee Members,

The Maryland Board of Physical Therapy Examiners (the “Board”) is submitting this letter of Information for HB 1327 – Maryland Department of Health – Body Altering Aesthetics Advisory Committee.

The Board acknowledges the significance of this legislation establishing the Body Altering Aesthetics Advisory Committee within the Maryland Department of Health. However, the Board wishes to provide essential information regarding the bill, which does not currently include physical therapists on the Advisory Committee.

The Board’s mission, as stated on our website, is “[t]o ensure the Maryland Physical Therapy Act [the “Act”] effectively safeguards the health, safety, and welfare of individuals” who seek physical therapy services in the State. To that end, the Act sets forth Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 13–101.(i)(2)(iv) administering therapeutic interventions that include therapeutic exercise, therapeutic massage, mechanical devices, or therapeutic agents that use the physical, chemical, or other properties of air, water, electricity, sound, or radiant energy.

As stated in HB 1327 (page 2, lines 1-5) “Body altering aesthetics industry “means the subset of the healthcare industry that combines the practice of various health occupations, including massage therapy, nursing, and medicine with the aesthetic aspiration of patients, and uses a variety of medical techniques include biomechanics, bioengineer, and biohacking. Also noted on page 2, lines 21-22, is one massage therapist with experience in lymphatic drainage massage. Licensed physical therapists have both biomechanics and lymphatic drainage massage within their scope of practice.

The Academy of Pelvic Health Physical Therapy is a non-profit professional association of more than 3,800 physical therapists and physical therapist assistants who specialize in women's health and pelvic health. Additionally, the American Physical Therapy Association provides an oncological specialist certification that includes lymphatic drainage massage and management.

The Board respectfully requests the addition of one physical therapist with experience in biomechanics and/or lymphatic drainage massage and/or women's health.

We are committed to upholding the highest standards of physical therapy practice and appreciate the opportunity to provide this letter of information.

Thank you for considering the Board's perspective on this matter. Should you require any further information or clarification please contact Laurie Kendall-Ellis, Executive Director at (410) 764-4718 or at [laurie.kendall-ellis@maryland.gov](mailto:laurie.kendall-ellis@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laurie Kendall-Ellis".

Laurie Kendall-Ellis, PT, CAE  
Executive Director

*The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.*