



Oregon

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Board of Massage Therapists

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Subject: Senate Bill 111 Bodywork Endorsement and Name Change

References: Oregon Revised Statute 687.121

Discussion: Beginning in 2007 different modalities began seeking legislation to exempt their modality from licensure and oversight by the Oregon Board of Massage Therapists; several modalities are now exempt Reflexology, Polarity, Trager, Feldenkrais and Bowenwork. This is due, in large part, that the Oregon Board of Massage Therapists currently issues one type of massage license to all 7184 Licensed Massage Therapists. A massage therapist license requires 500 hours of initial massage training and 25 hours continuing education every two years to perform a multitude of massage modalities.

Some modalities have come forward asking the Oregon Board of Massage Therapists to add an endorsement to the existing licensing system. This would allow the board to issue a license indicating their specialty that exceeds the 500 hours of massage training.

Endorsements would focus on modalities that require additional training or a specific training to practice. Of the 150 modalities currently practiced, we would add “endorsements” for approximately 10% of those modalities; such as 950 hours required for structural integrators (ROLF) or the breast massage for patients with breast cancer.

Several of the modalities believe that a more encompassing Board name would be better suited for their modality. The Oregon Board of Massage Therapists, names massage as the modality, changing the name to include Bodywork or Manual Therapy would better suit the agency for the diverse group of modalities represented by the Board.