



Associated Bodywork & Massage Professionals

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January 23, 2024

TO: Representatives Matthew Koch, Tom Smith, Kim Banta, Kevin Bratcher, Emily Callaway, Mike Clines, Jonathan Dixon, Daniel Fister, Patrick Flannery, Al Gentry, Samara Heavrin, Keturah Herron, Thomas Huff, Kevin Jackson, Nima Kulkarni, Michael Meredith, Amy Neighbors, Ruth Ann Palumbo, Phillip Pratt, and Killian Timoney

CC: Representatives DJ Johnson and Walker Wood Thomas

RE: ABMP Comments on House Bill 77

POSITION: Support

Associated Bodywork & Massage Professionals (ABMP) provides professional liability insurance, business resources, professional publications, and legislative and regulatory advocacy for more than 80,000 members nationwide.

ABMP is in support of House Bill 77 (HB 77) regarding the Interstate Massage Compact (Compact). ABMP worked with the Council of State Governments and the Department of Defense to draft this language and believes HB 77 is ultimately a benefit to massage therapists, as it will allow licensed practitioners to gain employment more easily and faster in other compact states.

The Compact is a vastly superior alternative to onerous licensure-by-endorsement processes. It will be advantageous to military families moving around the country, reduce financial burdens of massage therapists requiring and paying for multiple state licenses, and may affect Kentucky's bottom line with potential increased taxable income. HB 77 will also assist the Department of Professional Licensing by enhancing public safety, reducing application processing time, and expanding cooperation among state regulatory boards.

The Compact bill language was carefully drafted to ensure that licensed massage therapists will be properly educated and vetted. Once a minimum of seven states passes the bill and the Interstate Massage Compact Commission drafts rules, massage therapists in participating states will be able to obtain a multistate license so long as they have 625 hours of education and no encumbrances against their license in their home state. Participating states will require continuing education for license renewal, criminal background checks, and a disciplinary process.

ABMP fully supports the Compact's efforts to increase the mobility of lawfully practicing massage therapists in compact-participating states and encourages you to vote yes on HB 77.

Please contact me at lance@abmp.com if you have comments or questions.

Sincerely,

Lance Hostetter, Government Relations Director
Associated Bodywork & Massage Professionals