



Business League for Massage Therapy & Bodywork (BLMTB)

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Newsletter / Legislative Update March 29, 2009

#0032

Support HB662

After the bill hearing March 27, a group of opponents and proponents met with Rep. Elsie Arntzen to see if we could iron out our differences. The main component of the bill that needed to be changed was “Transitional Licensing” and turn it back into a “Grandfathering” section. After a few hours of discussion an agreement was made that created a generous “Grandfathering” section to include all existing massage therapists to license without the need for more education or testing.

Other amendments were agreed to that concerned scope of practice and other issues.

Later that same afternoon, the House Business and Labor committee voted to pass the bill out of committee with the “Grandfather” amendments included. Both Rachel Romanelli and Deborah Kimmet spoke to the committee about the negotiations between all the parties that occurred all that day. The committee was informed that a package of amendments concerning scope of practice and other issues would be brought to the senate side, but for now, the important thing was to ensure that “Grandfathering” was implemented into the bill draft.

The bill draft with amendments is available at:
<http://data.opi.mt.gov/bills/2009/billpdf/HB0662.pdf>

Amendments that were discussed by the persons that met on March 27 were agreed upon in principle, with the understanding that further discussions with others outside this group would need to occur, as we move forward with the bill. The group is clear that the intention is to keep our scope of practice intact and descriptive of what we practice as massage therapists and somatic practitioners currently.

HB662 will be coming to a vote of the whole House on Monday.

At this point in time, we request that you **SUPPORT HB662** with the current amendments, **AND CALL YOUR LEGISLATORS TO SUPPORT THE BILL.**

Call 406-444-4800 to leave a message.

This is the first time in 25 years that our massage therapy and bodywork community has united to move forward together as a profession to pass legislation and to come this far in the process. This is a ground-breaking moment for us all.

Our groups and others are working in good faith with the intention of passing a piece of legislation that we can all agree to. We're working hard to ensure that all of us are represented.

Rachel Romanelli, AMTA-MT Government Relations Chair
Deborah Kimmet, BLMTB Board of Directors
Susan Carlson, Massage Therapist