



American Massage Therapy Association
OREGON CHAPTER

TO: House Health Care Committee
FROM: American Massage Therapy Association Oregon Chapter
Leah Bowder, President
RE: SB 387-A
DATE: May 1, 2013

The American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA) is the largest non-profit professional association serving massage therapists, massage students and massage schools. The association is directed by volunteer leadership and fosters ongoing, direct member involvement through its 51 chapters. AMTA works to advance the profession through ethics and standards, the promotion of fair and consistent licensing of massage in all states, and public education on the benefits of massage. The AMTA Oregon (AMTA-OR) chapter currently has 1,070 members throughout Oregon.

AMTA-OR supports SB 387-A requiring a license for facilities.

A facilities license would give the Oregon Board of Massage Therapists the authority to inspect a facility if there was a complaint about the facility, rather than just a practitioner. This helps to protect the public in two ways.

First, a person running a facility (who is not an LMT already under the Board's purview) could be penalized if SB 387-A was enacted. An example of an activity a facility could be penalized for is advertising an exempt practice, such as reflexology, but then offering full massage. The OBMT could pursue such an establishment for misleading the public, as well as penalize practitioners in the establishment for doing unlicensed massage. Another example is the advertising of supposed "massage facilities" that are covers for other illicit activities. This has become a significant problem and the OBMT currently has no oversight authority or recourse to stop these activities. Regulation of facilities, rather than just individual employees, allows entire establishments engaging in misleading or unlawful activities to be put out of business.

Second, facilities not adhering to health standards could be fined. Current law only allows for penalties on an individual who does not follow these guidelines, when sometimes it is a facility owner or supervisor who is not providing the tools to operate in accordance with the law.

AMTA-Oregon believes SB 387-A is an effective way to protect the public. Thank you for your consideration.