

# CAMBS

California Alliance of Massage and  
Bodywork Schools

February 2003

## State License for Massage Therapists

CAMBS has learned that a lobbyist is working with the office of Christine Kehoe, an assemblywoman from San Diego, to create a proposal for licensing massage therapists in California. Michael Miller, Ms. Kehoe's chief of staff, said in a phone conversation that the proposal must be submitted to the legislature by February 21, 2003 to be considered this year. Mr. Miller said that the final language of the proposed legislation hadn't been determined yet. He also said that once the proposal had been submitted on February 21, it would begin a process of public hearings and committee meetings and that during that process the specific provisions of the bill would likely be amended.

For clarification, a call was made to Christine Kehoe's office about the Assembly schedule. According to her spokesperson, if the bill is submitted by February 21, it will go through several committee meetings and will be voted on by the Assembly by June 6, 2003. Then the bill will be sent to the Senate where it could be further amended and returned to the Assembly.

**At this point the important thing for every school owner and manager is to call Christine Kehoe's office and ask to be put on a list of people to be contacted about the hearings.** Emphasize that you want to be a part of the process and definitely want to know what the specific provisions of the proposed bill are, when it is finalized.

One of the concerns of CAMBS is that this process is being driven by a professional association, not by the therapists in California. One of the ways that school owners and managers can help is by making the information available to their graduates and current students so that all the therapists in California can have an opportunity to participate in the legislative process.

Any legislation that creates licensure for massage therapists in California will have a definite impact on massage schools as well as massage therapists. At the present it is difficult to predict the effect of state licensure on massage schools. Schools may have to change their courses to accommodate the hour requirements of a state law. Also, a state license creates an additional level of fees and bureaucracy for massage therapists, as it is unlikely that

cities will give up their control of massage, and the revenue it brings.

To give your contact information to Christine Kehoe's staff, call Laura Heim in the San Diego office at 619-294-7600 or Adrienne Alvord in the Sacramento office at 916-319-2076.

After February 21, 2003, the proposed bill will be available on line. Go to <http://www.assembly.ca.gov> and click on "Legislation" in the left hand column. Then enter the keyword "Massage" in the space labeled Author/Text, and click "search." You will be linked to any bill that contains the word massage.

To send letters about your concerns to your local assembly representative, click on "Find My District" in the left hand column. Enter your zip code to find your representative. Also, once you have read the proposed legislation, you can send a letter directly to Christine Kehoe at her San Diego office, 1010 University Ave., Suite C207, San Diego, CA 92103.

Be sure to attend the May CAMBS meeting in Granite Bay, where the specifics of the proposed bill will be discussed and a plan developed.

## What to do next:

- Call Christine Kehoe's office and ask to be notified about hearings on the massage license bill. Her Sacramento number is 916-319-2076.
- Check online on Feb. 22, 2003, to read the proposed bill: [www.assembly.ca.gov](http://www.assembly.ca.gov).
- Send letters about your suggestions and concerns to Christine Kehoe and your own representatives.
- Make arrangements to attend the May 2/3, 2003 CAMBS meeting in Granite Bay.
- Send a short list of your concerns to Teresa Nead, fax 916-791-0119, so she can prepare the agenda of items to discuss at the meeting.
- Prepare a letter to send to your students and graduates informing them of the proposed bill and how they can participate in the process.

## Issues

- How will information about the proposed bill be disseminated? What will be done to insure that as many therapists as possible have the opportunity to participate in the legislative process?
- How many hours of training will be required and what is the rationale for that decision?
- Will a national examination be required and what is the rationale for such a requirement?
- Will there be a tiered licensing system?
- Will there be a massage board and who would be part of that board?
- What part of the State government would have oversight of massage licensing?
- What would the cost be?
- Will cities agree to give up their control of massage licensing or therapists still have to go through city licensing procedures as well as state procedures?
- Will there be a provision for grand-fathering current therapists and what would be the requirements?

## May CAMBS Meeting Agenda

The main item on the agenda will be state licensing for massage therapists. A representative from Christine Kehoe's Sacramento office has been invited to speak on the proposed bill, but this has not yet been confirmed. Members present at the meeting will be able to share their concerns and create a plan of action. The meeting will begin on both days at 10:00 a.m. and will end at about 5 p.m. on Friday, about 1 p.m. on Saturday.

There will also be a discussion of the basic minimum massage curriculum that CAMBS members have been developing in the last two years and the survey in which many schools participated last year.

## Location

The May 2 and 3, 2003 CAMBS meeting will be hosted by the **Body Institute** in Granite Bay, California. The meeting will be held at the Rocklin Park Hotel, 5450 China Garden Rd., Rocklin, CA

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95677 (916) 630-9400. Rooms were quoted at \$110.00 per night.

The nearest airport is Sacramento and Rocklin is about a 30 minute drive east of Sacramento on Highway 80 (toward Reno.) Other nearby hotels include the following:

Howard Johnson	916-624-4500
Comfort suites	916-315-1300
Ramada Limited	916-632-3366

## How to Register for the Meeting

**CAMBS Members:** To register send a check in the amount of \$50.00 *per school*, regardless of the number of owners/administrators who will attend, to:

CAMBS, attn: Birgit Ball-Eisner  
27820 Dorris Drive, Carmel CA 93923.

Include a list of those who will attend, and their job titles. *The meeting is open only to school owners and administrators.*

**Non-Members:** The fee for the meeting is \$50.00 *per person* attending. Send payment to the address above. Include a list of those who will attend, and their job titles. *The meeting is open only to school owners and administrators.*

## CAMBS Board

Director: Teresa Reynolds Nead  
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