

CAMBS

California Alliance of Massage and
Bodywork Schools

July 2004

CAMBS Position Statement On Massage Licensing

Update on AB 1388: AMTA-CA representatives have hired a new lobbyist and have held at least one organizational meeting, planning to revive AB 1388 in the next California legislative session. The ABMP has also hired a lobbyist and has submitted a new version of the Sunrise Application to the Assembly Business and Professions Committee. There will be an informational hearing on the bill in November, after the elections, and it is expected that all interested parties will attend the hearing at the State Capitol. If there is sufficient agreement, a bill will come out of that hearing which will be submitted again to the B&P committee.

Assembly member Christine Kehoe, who originally sponsored the bill, will be running for a Senate seat, so if she is elected the bill may become a Senate Bill rather than an Assembly Bill.

AB 1388 was tabled in January, 2004, after an amended version was submitted to the Assembly. The amended version was created by a draft committee comprised of 8 industry representatives, including Teresa Nead, President of CAMBS, ABMP President Bob Benson, and AMTA-CA representative Beverly May.

Since AB 1388 was tabled in January, members of CAMBS have continued to discuss massage licensing concepts, hoping to build on the basis laid by the drafting committee. The CAMBS legislative committee met in June, 2004, to review and finalize a **new version of AB 1388**, in keeping with AMTA's request for concepts and language to help the legislative process along.

On July 4, 2004, the new version of AB 1388, along with a cover letter and a summary of changes to the bill were sent to Beverly May, the Chairperson for the AMTA-CA Legislative Committee, and copies were sent to other members of AMTA-CA and ABMP who have been involved in the process of developing a bill, as well as Christine Kehoe's office, B&P Committee members, members of CAMBS and other massage schools, the BPPVE and other

interested parties. Our purpose is to share a bill we feel will benefit the massage community and consumers in California. This is a well-thought-out alternative that uses the current bill as a foundation.

Although we understand the nature of the legislative process will require continued negotiation, CAMBS stands firm on the following points:

1. Pre-emption of local massage licensing rules.
2. A 250-hour tier with sufficient safeguards to assure that a student will have completed a balance core curriculum, no restrictions on scope of practice, and no requirement for supervision. This tier must be permanent, not something that can be phased out in a few years.
3. Examination done within the school.
4. Massage Board has no control over curriculum in massage schools, either directly or indirectly.
5. Practitioner hours (250) must be acquired at an Approved, not a Registered school.
6. Reasonable licensing fees and other associated costs.
7. Testing such as the NCE only as a choice, not a requirement.

So that the concepts and language we have worked out can be seen in the context of the full bill, and for ease of reading and cohesiveness, a copy of the entire massage bill is available on the CAMBS website, at <http://www.camassageschools.org>. The cover letter to Beverly May and the summary of the changes CAMBS is suggesting are also available on the web site. There is also a link to the new sunrise application prepared by ABMP.

Overview of AB 1388 Modifications

(This is a list of changes CAMBS is suggesting, based on the last amended version of AB 1388; the remainder of the bill has not been changed except for a few very minor changes to correct spelling or grammar, or to clarify the meaning of a sentence.)

The introduction establishes the basis for creating a Massage Board and regulating the licensure of massage practitioners and therapists in California.

<http://www.camassageschools.org>

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Specific sections that have been revised include:

- 4601(k) Definition of "out-of-state schools"
- 4601(l) Definition of "recognized professional association"
- 4602(a) Purpose of Massage Board defined
- 4604(b) Requirements for Massage Practitioner License defined
- 4604(c) Requirements for Massage Therapist License defined
- 4604.10 Grandfathering requirements
- 4604.20(b) Continuing education providers defined

An entirely new section relating to massage curriculum has been created:

SEC. 5. Section *94926 is added to California Education Code, Title 3, Division 10, Part 59, Chapter 7 Private Postsecondary and Vocational Institutions.

*(94926 is a number not currently used in the Education Code and it has been used here just to suggest where this section could fit in the Education Code. It will likely not be the correct number actually used for this section.)

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Other Current Legislation

The County of Sacramento has proposed an ordinance that would only allow graduates of accredited massage schools to obtain a license to do massage in their county. At a meeting to discuss this ordinance, more than 60 local massage therapists spoke against the idea. The county responded by asking local therapists to come up with a better idea. Teresa Nead and James Mally of CAMBS are among those working with local schools and therapists on

this issue.

CAMBS is currently watching other legislative issues, including several bills in the state legislature that propose changes to the BPPVE:

- SB 1544 (Figueroa)
- AB 2457 (Goldberg)
- AB 711 (originally real estate licenses; now dealing with accredited schools and the BPPVE) (Correa)

You can obtain more information on these bills by visiting the State website: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov>

Why Join CAMBS

Some massage school-industry professionals attend CAMBS meetings for the networking and fellowship with industry peers; others crave the chance to catch up on the latest trends in the field. But all attendees agree on one thing: Attending the semiannual meetings of the California Alliance of Massage and Bodywork Schools is well worth the time and expense.

Participating in CAMBS is the quickest way to find out about mainstream issues and to be better prepared for them. Members also develop a number of truly good friends within the organization who exchange ideas and act as a support system. Members and others attending the meetings also get together socially and learn about ideals and the vision that each school represents.

Since 1993, CAMBS has mixed its semiannual meetings, networking opportunities and brainstorming sessions into a recipe for success in its member schools. The meetings give us all a chance to meet with our peers in the same profession to discuss topics of mutual interest.

CAMBS has been at the forefront of legislative and governmental issues affecting massage schools since its beginning in 1993. CAMBS has kept member and non-member schools aware of changes that could affect their success, and has been a means of communication between schools, regulators and legislators.

CAMBS's newsletters, meetings, networking and brainstorming sessions, and up-to-the minute email communications keep massage school owners on the track to success. Join today! You can find a membership application on our website at <http://www.camassageschools.org>.