



State Senator Sheila Harsdorf

Date: March 2, 2016

To: Senate Committee on Agriculture, Small Business and Tourism

From: Senator Sheila Harsdorf

RE: Senate Bill 747 – Massage Therapist

Chair Moulton and Committee Members:

Thank you for holding a public hearing on Senate Bill 747 which would make changes to the practice of massage therapy or bodywork therapy. Representative Tittl and I have introduced this legislation at the request of the massage therapy association in order to update the scope of practice for massage therapists to reflect the current best practices of the profession.

Given new innovations in healthcare procedures, and advanced treatment options for patients, this legislation is important for providers of massage and bodywork therapy services.

Senate Bill 747 would also provide greater protection for the public given the penalty enhancement for the unauthorized practice of massage and bodywork therapy.

I appreciate the work by the massage therapist association, physical therapist association, and chiropractic association who worked with our staff to make the necessary changes to SB 747 to provide a more up-to-date law for the practice of massage and bodywork therapy.

Once again, thank you for holding a public hearing on Senate Bill 747. I urge your support of this legislation.



PAUL TITTL

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 25TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Senate Committee on Agriculture, Small Business, and Tourism
Testimony on SB 747
March 2, 2016

First of all, I would like to thank you, Chairman Moulton and committee members, for allowing me to testify before you today concerning SB 747 related to massage therapy.

Innovations in healthcare procedures are continually advancing treatment options for patients. In order to allow healthcare providers the ability to provide these treatments, scope of practice statutes may need to be modernized to take into account the new general practices of the profession.

This legislation simply modernizes the statutes regulating the practice of massage therapy to accurately reflect the current best practices of the profession.

The bill also provides greater security for the public by increasing the ability for law enforcement to act on the unauthorized practice of massage therapy.

The bill could be viewed as a red tape bill, because the majority of concerns addressed in this bill were raised before the Assembly Committee on Health as part of the red tape review process.

There is an amendment to the bill which makes some technical clarifications requested by the chiropractors and physical therapists.

During today's hearing you will hear from representatives of the massage therapy association who can address the details of the changes and answer any questions you might have about those matters.

Thank you for hearing this bill today. I would be happy to address any questions you may have.



March 2, 2016

To: Senator Moulton
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Small Business, and Tourism

Re: SB 747

Thank you Chairman Moulton and members of the committee on Agriculture, Small Business, and Tourism.

The Wisconsin Chapter of the American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA-WI) greatly appreciates the opportunity to provide our comments and support of SB 747.

Recently we testified at a right the rules hearing held by the Assembly committee on health. We provided very similar testimony to that committee to explain the need and rationale for modernizing the statutes and rules that govern the profession of Massage Therapy and Bodywork practices.

It is important to note that healthcare treatment procedures are continually advancing, which is why our association is currently endorsing this legislation that will modernized the statutes that regulate the massage therapy and bodyworks profession to include current best practices procedures.

SB 747 simply codifies what is generally accepted as best practices in Massage Therapy and Body work and assists in "righting the rules."

Current statutes define Adjunctive Therapy as the following:

- (a) The use of a device that simulates or enhances a manual action.
- (b) The application of water, lubricants, or other non- prescription topical agents to the skin.
- (c) The application of heat or cold to the skin in the absence of an electromagnetic device.

SB 747 through the addition of section 1 and section 2 simply modernizes the statutes to current best practices of the profession by inclusion of the following procedures:

1. The application of structural and elastic supportive tape to the skin. An example of this would be the use of kinesiotape or rocktape. These tapes are currently applied by coaches and other lay people and do not need professional skill sets to apply. This tape simulates manual action.
2. The application of body spa services and body wraps.

Section 460.01(3) defines Manual Action to include holding, positioning, rocking, kneading, compressing, decompressing, gliding, or percussing the soft tissue of the human body or applying a passive range of motion to the human body without joint mobilization or manipulation.

SB 747 through the addition of section 3 simply modernize the statutes to current best practices of the profession by inclusion of stretching procedures to the current section defining manual actions performed daily by massage therapist and body work practitioners. This modification **will not** allow Massage Therapist to mobilize or adjust the joints of the body as performed by PT's or Chiropractors.

Massage Therapy definition

“Massage therapy or bodywork therapy” means the science and healing art that uses manual actions and adjunctive therapies to palpate and manipulate the soft tissue of the human body, in order to improve circulation, reduce tension, relieve soft tissue pain, or increase flexibility. Massage therapy or bodywork therapy includes determining whether manual actions and adjunctive therapies are appropriate. Massage therapy or bodywork therapy does not include making a medical, physical therapy, or chiropractic diagnosis.

SB 747 through section 4 simply modernizes the statutes to current best practices of the profession by inclusion of the ability to provide home care instruction on self activated procedures or activities that can be performed outside of the treatment setting.

Externship

“Massage therapy extern or bodywork therapy extern” means a student currently enrolled in an approved massage therapy or bodywork therapy school or program and in good standing, who provides massage therapy and bodywork therapy services under specific conditions.

The slight modifications found in SB 747 through sections 5 and 6 assists interns and externs achieve greater opportunities to for hands on experience under the supervision of trained LMTs.

Finally, the public is granted greater protection against the unlawful practice of massage therapy due to the provisions found in sections 7 and 8 of SB 747 which increases the penalties for those who violate the laws.

Thank you for allowing me to testify today in support of SB 747.

Respectfully,

Lynn Marie Kutz, LMT

President, American Massage Therapy Association – Wisconsin Chapter