

**1999 SENATE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS**

**SB 2309**


1999 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB2309

Senate Political Subdivisions Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date January 28, 1999

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1		x	4683 to end
2	X		0 to 3323
Committee Clerk Signature 			

Minutes:

SENATOR TOMAC: Present SB2309

SENATOR FLAKOLL: amount of hours

SENATOR TOMAC: 500 hours

SENATOR WATNE: various associations in state and how well are they organized

SENATOR TOMAC: 1 org in state of professionals also a board of message appointed by the Gov. and three schools in the state, is 500 hours enough to properly train a therapist.

SENATOR KELSH: all this bill does is raise the amount of hours needed to become a professional

SENATOR TOMAC: 500 hours to 750

SENATOR FLAKOLL: more time to teach additional things

SENATOR TOMAC: difference between supervision and teaching

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SENATOR LEE: any further questions, neutral position

SENATOR TOMAC: Jim Flemming would have a neutral position

JIM FLEMMING: SEE TESTIMONY

SENATOR WATNE: difference between therapeutic message and a regular message

JIM FLEMMING: broad definition for the differences in language

DISCUSSION

SENATOR FLAKOLL: Problems with 250 hour difference

JIM FLEMMING: Some problems have but not many, accounting scenario and the hourly difference, adoption of a transitional period

SENATOR NELSON: degree from an accredited school

# END OF TAPE 1

JIM FLEMMING: accreditation hours set a 500

SENATOR KELSH: grandfathering any amendment

JIM FLEMING: License from the board and what is needed to get the license by August 1

SENATOR LEE: Nursing and what credentials are needed in relation to this

SENATOR WATNE: 750 hours of classroom instruction and you want to change mentioned 1000 hours of hands on instruction

SENATOR LEE: hold question

KAREN WOJAN: representing the chapter of American message therapist

KAREN WOJAHN up the hours and in support of SB2309

SENATOR FLAKOLL: current education program to get the hours and how will it effect the incoming student

KAREN WOJAHN: a class that starts together finishes together, questions on the bill language

SENATOR LEE: any questions

#### DISCUSSION

KAREN WOJAHN: standards for the school

SENATOR LEE: next in favor of SB2309

MICHAEL STAFFORD: see testimony, support this bill

SENATOR LEE: questions

GAIL HOVELAND: favor of the bill

SENATOR LEE: any opposition to 2309

SHARON DOCTRINE: opposed to some parts of the bill, total classroom time and video presentation, costs for going to school, hands on training (500) and National Certification testing and requirements

SENATOR NELSON: internet teaching and amending this bill to include various types of teaching.

SHARON DOCTRINE: would be fine

SENATOR WATNE: standards set by the board and what standards are adopted by the governors board.

SHARON DOCTRINE: strict curriculum because there was no curriculum when I opened my school

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Senate Political Subdivisions Committee

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SENATOR NELSON: before 1995 where did students go to school

SHARON DOCTRINE: dollar cost for schooling

SENATOR LEE: opposing SB2309

RICHARD RHOSPINNER: GOV. BOARD ON MESSAGE THERAPY, not opposed to bill in its entirety. See testimony, liability of using names in organizations vs. not using names

SENATOR LYSON: how long is this going to be made

SENATOR LEE: more likely hood of things being current if we put particular names in the book and if organization requirements meet standards

RICHARD ROSPINNER: different standards of the organizations

SENATOR LEE: representing yourself and not the governors board

RICHARD ROSPINNER: represent the state of ND from lawsuit

SENATOR LEE: do appreciate your input

SENATOR LYSON: governors task force and regulations being brought to the committee

RICHARD ROSPINNER: no schools in state and law changes and what the current standards are, never been a time to sit down and decide the standards

SENATOR LYSON: naming and what it should be and group not doing job

RICHARD ROSPINNER: tried to do the job, to much disagreement between board and members of the community. adoption of the standards and what should be put in to make the bill complete

SENATOR LYSON: I don't think so

SENATOR LEE: copy of the curriculum list

SENATOR FLAKOLL: something nailed down and generic terms with the terms not defined  
and people who develop the training standards

SENATOR LEE: Mr. Flemming and amendments to the bill

SENATOR KELSH: how many members are on the state board

RICHARD RHOSPINNER: 3

SENATOR KELSH: unanimous decision on this vote

SENATOR LEE: no majority

DISCUSSION

SENATOR WATNE: direction of the board

SENATOR LEE: any further questions

RICHARD RHOSPINNER: regulations met for schools not for state law.

MOTION: CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING ON SB2309

DISCUSSION

SENATOR LEE: Reconvene

CORRENE OPP: Object to requirement of supervised study, she studied at home.

SENATOR LEE: opposing classroom portion of this bill

CORRENE OPP: yes, different needs with home study

SENATOR LEE: changing classroom to instructional would address your problem

CORRENE OPP: Yes

SENATOR LEE: any further questions

MOTION: close hearing on bill

MOTION: LATER ISSUE ON THIS BILL

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Senate Political Subdivisions Committee  
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**FEBRUARY 11, 1999**

**DO PASS AS AMENDED**

**SENATOR KELSH: MOTIONED**

**SENATOR WATNE: SECONDED**

**CARRIER SENATOR FLAKOLL:**

Amendments proposed by  
State Board of Massage  
January 29, 1999

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 2309

Page 1, line 2, after "standards" insert "and a transition period"

Page 1, line 10, replace "classroom" with "supervised"

Page 1, line 13, remove "classroom"

Page 1, line 14, after "instruction." insert "Any student enrolled in a massage school on or before the date this act is filed with the secretary of state satisfies the requirements in this subsection if the student presents a diploma or credentials issued by a school of massage that requires at least five hundred hours of instruction."

Renumber accordingly





Date: 2-11-99  
Roll Call Vote #: 1

1999 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2309

Senate Political Subdivisions Committee Committee

Subcommittee on \_\_\_\_\_  
or  
 Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken Do pass Amended

Motion Made By Kelsh Seconded By Watne

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Lee (Chairman)	/				
Senator Lyson (Vice-Chairman)	/				
Senator Flakoll	/				
Senator Watne	/				
Senator Kelsh	/				
Senator Nelson	/				

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent \_\_\_\_\_

Floor Assignment Flakoll

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2309: Political Subdivisions Committee (Sen. Lee, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2309 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 10, replace "classroom" with "supervised"

Page 1, line 13, remove "classroom"

Page 1, line 14, after "instruction" insert ". Any student enrolled in a massage school on or before the effective date of this Act satisfies the requirements in this subdivision if the student presents a diploma or credentials issued by a school of massage that requires at least five hundred hours of instruction"

Renumber accordingly

**1999 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES**

**SB 2309**

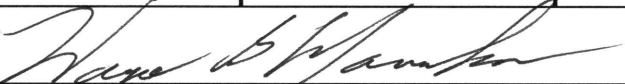
1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2309

House Human Services Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date March 1, 1999

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1		x	46.0 - end
2	x		0.0-15.2
2	x		39.7-end
Committee Clerk Signature 			

Minutes:

JAMES FLEMING, Assistant Attorney General, appointed to represent the State Board of Massage testifies. (Testimony attached.) The bill will increase the minimum hours to 750 from 500 hours and requires that the instruction be supervised.

Senator STEVE TOMAC, 31st District testifies: My interest comes from personal use of massage therapy. Increased education of professionals is always beneficial and important for the public safety.

CARRIE SHIGEMATSU, Sister Rosalind Grefre's School of Professional Massage, Fargo testifies. (Testimony attached).

Rep. CLARA SUE PRICE : What are the continuing hours requirements? CARRIE

SHIGEMATSU: Eighteen hours. North Dakota has led the nation in raising standards of the profession.

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House Human Services Committee

Bill/Resolution Number 2309

Hearing Date March 1, 1999

Rep. CAROL NIEMEIER : Do the major insurance carriers cover this? CARRIE

SHIGEMATSU: Blue Cross/Blue Shield does sometimes. It usually comes down to the qualifications of the practitioner. Rep. CAROL NIEMEIER : Does it require a referral?

CARRIE SHIGEMATSU: That is usually the case.

GAIL HOVDEN, licensed massage therapist, Bismarck entered into testimony a letter from KAREN WOJAHN, President of the American Massage Therapy Association of North Dakota.

(Testimony attached.)

GAIL HOVDEN, licensed massage, therapist, Bismarck testifies. (Testimony attached.)

MICHAEL STAFFORD, Administrator, Professional Institute of Massage Therapy testified.

(Testimony attached.)

Rep. WANDA ROSE : Are these schools governed by Vo-Tech or Higher Education or who?

MICHAEL STAFFORD: We get our hours requirements from Vo-Tech. I don't know on what basis the requirements are arrived at.

OPPOSITION to SB2309

SHARON DOCHTER testifies: The school that she operates uses home video to teach some subjects including anatomy, physiology and kinesiology. The students also come in for hands on training. The students score well in board testing on these subjects. They could not have attended the course without the inclusion of video instruction. They are individuals who are making mid-life career changes. Nurses who have taken the classes have stated that the tests given off of those videos are some of the hardest they have ever encountered. They pass the tests which indicates that they are learning the subject matter off of the video instruction. I don't think it's right to deny a certain amount of the population this form of instruction if they want it.

I have sent out wonderful students and have received wonderful comments from doctors and chiropractors about the students abilities.

Rep. CLARA SUE PRICE :Do you feel that increasing the hours will no longer allow this type of home study? SHARON DOCHTER: I think that's what they are saying. My school has always been at 700 hours and increased to 750 last year.

Rep. TODD PORTER : Did you testify against this bill in the Senate? SHARON DOCHTER: Yes. Rep. TODD PORTER :So the change of definition of supervised instruction is what would effect you the most. SHARON DOCHTER: Yes. They are supervised in that they can call the school at any time and have their questions answered. They are learning. I don't think that some people should be denied the right to change their professions while supporting families and work while trying to make the change.

Insertion by CARRIE SHIGEMATSU, Fargo: Some of Miss Dochter's former students have said that they were denied a proper education at the school. I think that if schools are allowed to provide unsupervised training the students will not be competent.

Rep. CLARA SUE PRICE : Isn't the question of supervised instruction be part of the Board of Massage responsibility? SHARON DOCHTER: Yes.

Hearing closed on SB 2309.

Hearing reopened on SG 2309 for additional OPPOSITION testimony.

CORRENE OPP, Student at IMS testifies: She is thankful for the video instruction which permitted undertaking the course of instruction. (Handed out examples for tests and text books for review.) Without the course she would not be able to support herself at present. More colleges and high schools are going to video instruction.

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House Human Services Committee

Bill/Resolution Number 2309

Hearing Date March 1, 1999

Rep. ROXANNE JENSEN : Are you now licensed? CORRENE OPP: I am a licensed massage therapist having passed national certification and state tests. Rep. ROXANNE JENSEN : How well did you do. CORRENE OPP: The final scores weren't given just pass. Rep. ROXANNE JENSEN : Did you take the same licensing test that every other student takes? CORRENE OPP: Yes including hands on with state board testing.

Rep. CAROL NIEMEIER : How did you deal with questions during video presentations?

CORRENE OPP: Wrote the questions down and called the instructor and asked them.

Hearing closed on SB 2309



1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2309

House Human Services Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date March 2, 1999

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1		x	24.8-end
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Wayne B. [Signature]</i>			

Minutes:

Committee Discussion:

There was concern expressed over the home study courses. Of primary question was how could a student effectively learn massage techniques from a video tape without actual practice. There was also a perception by some of the witnesses that requiring supervised study would disallow home study courses.

Additional discussion pointed out that the home study schools currently in operation are meeting the criteria of the board and their students are taking and passing the board and state tests which include hands-on testing. Supervision can be indirect. Video has become an accepted media of instruction in many different disciplines and every level of education. To disallow video instruction is to void a valid teaching tool.

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House Human Services Committee

Bill/Resolution Number 2309mar2

Hearing Date March 2, 1999

Rep. TODD PORTER moved an amendment that would remove the requirement of 750 hours of supervised instruction and, in effect, leave the standards in the hands of the American Massage Therapy Association. Rep. AMY KLINISKE seconded.

Amendment passed: 13 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent.

Rep. TODD PORTER move 'Do Pass as Amended'. Rep. AMY KLINISKE seconded.

Roll Call Vote: 13 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent.

CARRIER: Rep. ROXANNE JENSEN

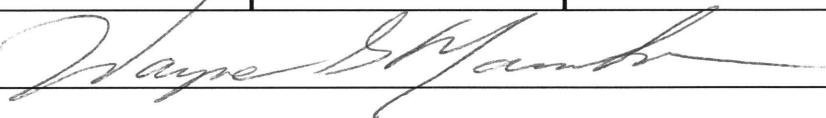
1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB2309

House Human Services Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date March 22, 1999

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1		x	12.6-27.1
Committee Clerk Signature 			

Minutes:

Rep. ROXANNE JENSEN reported to the committee the results of discussion in the conference committee on SB2309. It turns out that the witness who most influenced the House committee's decision to amend the bill with the removal of the 750 hours requirement was under investigation for providing students with board tests. It was also pointed out that the national organization does not yet have a set number of hours that are required. They currently have a committee working on this criteria. The state board is currently in disarray over the tests being made public. There is not objection with video instruction as long as personal supervision is also part of the program. The senate amendments would put a sunset clause on the hours requirement to give the board time to regroup and establish a criteria.

Rep. ROXANNE JENSEN recommended that the house committee recede from the house amendments and support the Senate version. The committee agreed with this course.

90300.0301  
Title.0400

Adopted by the Human Services Committee  
March 2, 1999

VR  
3/2/99

**HOUSE** AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2309 **HUM SER 3-2-99**

Page 1, line 9, remove "but which must require at least seven hundred fifty hours of"

Page 1, remove lines 10 through 16

Page 1, line 17, remove "five hundred hours of instruction"

Renumber accordingly

Date: 3-2-99  
Roll Call Vote #: 2

1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2309

House Human Services Committee

Subcommittee on \_\_\_\_\_

or

Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken Do Pass as Amended.

Motion Made By Porter Seconded By Kliniske

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Clara Sue Price - Chairwoman	✓		Bruce A. Eckre		
Robin Weisz - Vice Chairman	✓		Ralph Metcalf	✓	
William R. Devlin			Carol A. Niemeier	✓	
Pat Galvin	✓		Wanda Rose	✓	
Dale L. Henegar	✓		Sally M. Sandvig	✓	
Roxanne Jensen	✓				
Amy N. Kliniske	✓				
Chet Pollert	✓				
Todd Porter	✓				
Blair Thoreson	✓				

Total Yes 13 No 0  
Absent 2

Floor Assignment Jensen

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

SB 2309, as engrossed: Human Services Committee (Rep. Price, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed SB 2309 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 9, remove "but which must require at least seven hundred fifty hours of"

Page 1, remove lines 10 through 16

Page 1, line 17, remove "five hundred hours of instruction"

Renumber accordingly

**1999 SENATE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS**

**SB 2309**

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**

1999 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB2309

Senate Political Subdivisions Committee

■ Conference Committee

Hearing Date MARCH 17,1999

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	X		0 to 1260
1 March 29 meeting	x		0 to 1194
Committee Clerk Signature			

Minutes:

SENATOR LEE: open conference committee on SENATE BILL 2309

SENATOR LEE: section on amendments deals with the 750 hours of needed education for message therapy, and the importance of this. House agrees that the bill should be left in rule.

Amendment that was passed out, a place to start, allows the 750 hours to be in statute but adds a sunset clause to the bill. Board not up and running so it would affirm the 750 hours during this next biennium and then would end so the board could take over

REPRESENTATIVE JENSEN: issue is not about hours but the controversy that this issue creates between the various groups and also supervised instruction and the removal of supervised instruction from the amendment. Supervised instruction created a hardship for one of the local schools. Number of hours should be left to the organization.



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Senate Political Subdivisions Committee  
Bill/Resolution Number sb2309conference  
Hearing Date March 17, 1999

SENATOR FLAKOLL: supervised classroom instruction, per line 13 page 1. This would not be deleted. Problem with amount of time that is unsupervised or video taped, not sure of the if that's what the majority is looking for. Two hour video tape that make up the bulk of their training and would like to see the amount of hours raised to 1000. 750 hours not unreasonable in my mind but there was a variety of opinions being raised by the editorial

REPRESENTATIVE Jensen: (interrupt) this is the official newspaper of the message therapy board. "I didn't know that this letter was dated 1997"

REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: working off of SENATE BILL 2309 the first engrossment

SENATOR LEE: the first engrossment

SENATOR LEE: SENATOR KELSH

SENATOR LEE: Sorry, REPRESENTATIVE ROSE

REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: just removing the word supervised, going to say 750 hours

SENATOR LEE: only supervised that was going to be deleted was above line 10, remove that my goal was to have 750 hours in this bill for two years and then have it go away for the board.

Mr. Fleming, does it read that way.

MR. FLEMING: it does to me

SENATOR LEE: not trying to delete in my example, supervised instruction, difficulties in unsupervised instruction and that not everyone could obtain the same benefit of instruction as if they had supervised instruction

SENATOR KELSH: problems with the American message Therapy Association, will we do anything with that

SENATOR LEE: there was more than one organization that was accredited and the type of classes and the accreditation standards for these classes, but that doesn't address all the curriculum either. Mr. Fleming will address these standards on accreditation whether or not there is a problem with these standards

SENATOR KELSH: I don't know who has the right answer, we don't have a board right now.

SENATOR LEE: Mr. Fleming do you have any thoughts to add on the accreditation standards that the American Massage therapy Association commission on accreditation

JIM FLEMING: AMTA concept is not the only accreditation concept agency with the most through standards, largest and most dominate accreditation agency, with the most through standards, agency does not adopt standards by rule, because the board has standards that are no less than AMTA standards, operating principle of COMPTA guide lines leave the rules to each state has to how many hours they want each student to have. COMPTA guidelines on page two require a minimum of 500 clock hours and clinical instruction by officials. COMPTA guidelines clearly specify that the hours must be under direct supervision

SENATOR LEE: does that help clarify it all, no

SENATOR KELSH: discussion on the organization and I wondered if we were going to change this

SENATOR LEE: governors office on when a full board would be in place for Message therapy

JIM FLEMING: amount of people serving on a board, three members by statute, two members are currently serving on the board. Board is committed to using the word "UN-ruled" as it's statutory obligation. September before the rules can be adopted and how the process is adopted in accordance with the COMPTA standards

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Senate Political Subdivisions Committee  
Bill/Resolution Number sb2309conference  
Hearing Date March 17, 1999

SENATOR FLAKOLL: keep in place guidelines for the customers and it's importance.

Disservice to the students to shift the amount of hours in midstream. Number of students that pass the exam

REPRESENTATIVE JENSEN: doesn't seem to be agreement with the officials involved and didn't seem to be appropriate to adopt legislation at this time, take the amendments back to committee for further discussion

SENATOR LEE: fine by me, going the same direction with the same qualifications and certifications, real estate brokers and the way professions are done with the needed qualifications

REPRESENTATIVE JENSEN: you are satisfied with the amendments that you put forward

SENATOR LEE: the one I just presented is not the same as the amendments the came out of committee because it didn't have the sunset. Bill could be removed with sunset law rather than have it in law. Middle of the road that would support the guide lines

REPRESENTATIVE JENSEN: till we know which way the objections where going, we didn't know how to address this

SENATOR LEE: any further comments, thank you

MOTION: close the hearing till next week

**MARCH 29, 1999**

Second conference committee on SENATE BILL 2309

SENATOR LEE: opens the hearing on SENATE BILL 2309, REPRESENTATIVE were going to do some further checking on this issue

REPRESENTATIVE JENSEN: did further checking on this bill with Mr. Fleming, house is willing to recede from the houses amendments

MOTION: house to recede from it's amendments to the bill

MOTION: REPRESENTATIVE THORESON seconds the motion for the house to recede from it's amendments

SENATOR LEE: any further discussion about this bill

SENATOR FLAKOLL: go back to the engrossed Senate version

SENATOR LEE: just the engrossed Senate Bill not the blue part

SENATOR FLAKOLL: question related to the amendments and having an effective date put on the bill.

SENATOR LEE: another thing about this bill is whether or not we wish to add an emergency clause

REPRESENTATIVE JENSEN: why don't we just recede and then you can add any additional wording

SENATOR LEE: any further discussion on the movement to recede from the house amendments

VOICE VOTE: 6-0 in favor of the house receding from it's votes

SENATOR LEE: any further discussion on SENATE BILL 2309

SENATOR FLAKOLL: move the amendments numbered 90300.0302 dated March 17, 1999

SENATOR LEE: I have 0301 amendments

SENATOR KELSH: this is an expiration date not an effective date

REPRESENTATIVE JENSEN: give them those two years

SENATOR LEE: grab her big book in search of amendments

#### DISCUSSION

SENATOR LEE: just read to us, SENATOR FLAKOLL: what the amendments say

SENATOR FLAKOLL: read the amendments number 90300.0302, add an effective date

SENATOR LEE: can I look at those

#### DISCUSSION FURTHER ON THIS BILL

SENATOR LEE: did we wish to have an expiration date and a emergency clause and when the bill could be put into act

SENATOR FLAKOLL: provision might be a problem in when they start classes, effective date on a emergency clause verses waiting till August

SENATOR LEE: everyone already enrolled will be O.K. anyway. Mr. Flemming talked about the emergency clause and is in favor of the clause. I don't have any problems with this so long as it's O.K. with the committee and the message therapy people

SENATOR KELSH: reason for the expiration date is for the board have to accept the rules and regulations by that time

SENATOR LEE: exactly, I don't have any problems with that. Emergency clause would be a separate issue

SENATOR KELSH: what if they don't have the same rules and regulations or we didn't approve of the rules and regulations after the expiration date ends

SENATOR LEE: after the expiration date

SENATOR KELSH: ya, with the expiration date on the bill

SENATOR LEE: idea was, the house felt quite strongly that we shouldn't have rules in laws and I agree with that. don't have their ducks in a row to eliminate the restrictions right now. Give them two years to replace the law and if some one is unhappy, they will come back to us.

SENATOR FLAKOLL: expiration date is after next session so if we need to deal with this issue again we can extend this issue or wipe it out totally

SENATOR LEE: through July 31st, 2000, motion on the second, second on the motion to amendment 0302

SENATOR KELSH: I will second

SENATOR LEE: any further discussion, voice vote 9030000.0202 6-0 do pass, wishes of the committee, can be swayed one way or the other

SENATOR KELSH: not understanding SENATOR FLAKOLL: "in mid stream"  
, putting the emergency clause on

SENATOR FLAKOLL: I could have been wrong

SENATOR LEE: It the first time

SENATOR KELSH: no it's not the first time, what the concern was, I was not understanding the concern, grandfather or not the effective date of this bill

SENATOR LEE: the way that's going to be is, the people that are already enrolled are O.K., they are not going to have to change standards. All new people to the program will be under the new

law. Mr. Flemming from the attorney generals office thought that this would be a good idea, some benefit of the emergency clause, when the classes start

SENATOR FLAKOLL: covered the people in school, how would it work with the people who are solicited. These people start towards the fall, number of month course and changing the cost of the course.

SENATOR LEE: flip side is hurry up and enroll now.

SENATOR KELSH: does anyone know what starting times are

SENATOR LEE: intern call the attorney generals office for Mr. Flemmings and have him come down

REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: from what I recall from the testimony, they all are at 750 hours right now.

SENATOR FLAKOLL: shy on hours and content

REPRESENTATIVE JENSEN: didn't get the feeling that it was ours but the questionable methods used.

SENATOR LEE: had no testimony that would post the number of hours no matter where it is as far as the verbiage

DISCUSSION

SENATOR FLAKOLL: move to amend and add the emergency clause

SENATOR KELSH: second the motion

SENATOR LEE: any further questions, voice vote on adding the emergency clause

SENATOR FLAKOLL: move a do pass as amended

REPRESENTATIVE THORSON: second the do pass as amended

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Senate Political Subdivisions Committee  
Bill/Resolution Number sb2309conference  
Hearing Date March 17, 1999

SENATOR LEE: any further discussion

MOTION: 6-0 do pass as amended

MOTION: close hearing on SENATE BILL 2309

DISCUSSION

SENATOR LEE: add emergency clause



March 17, 1999

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2309

That the House recede from its amendments as printed on page 626 of the Senate Journal and page 701 of the House Journal and that Engrossed Senate Bill No. 2309 be amended as follows:

Page 1, line 2, after "standards" insert "; and to provide an expiration date"

Page 1, line 9, remove "but which must require at least seven hundred fifty hours of" *debate*

Page 1, line 10, remove "supervised instruction"

Page 1, after line 17, insert:

**"SECTION 2. EXPIRATION DATE.** This Act is effective through July 31, 2001, and after that date is ineffective."

Renumber accordingly

*Amendments  
Drafted  
3-29-99  
6-0  
conference comm.  
need emergency  
claws*

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2309

That the House recede from its amendments as printed on page 626 of the Senate Journal and page 701 of the House Journal and that Engrossed Senate Bill No. 2309 be amended as follows:

Page 1, line 2, after "standards" insert "; <sup>and</sup> to provide an expiration date <sup>to</sup> and to declare an emergency "

Page 1, line 9, remove "but which must require at least seven hundred fifty hours of"

Page 1, line 10, remove "supervised instruction"

Page 1, after line 17, insert:

"**SECTION 2. EXPIRATION DATE.** This Act is effective through July 31, 2001, and after that date <sup>is</sup> ineffective."

"**SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE.** This Act is declared <sup>to be</sup> an Emergency <sup>measure</sup>."

Renumber accordingly

**REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**

**SB 2309, as engrossed:** Your conference committee (Sens. Lee, Flakoll, Kelsh and Reps. Jensen, B. Thoreson, Rose) recommends that the **HOUSE RECEDE** from the House amendments on SJ page 626, adopt amendments as follows, and place SB 2309 on the Seventh order:

That the House recede from its amendments as printed on page 626 of the Senate Journal and page 701 of the House Journal and that Engrossed Senate Bill No. 2309 be amended as follows:

Page 1, line 2, after "standards" insert "; to provide an expiration date; and to declare an emergency"

Page 1, line 9, remove "but which must require at least seven hundred fifty hours of"

Page 1, line 10, remove "supervised instruction"

Page 1, after line 17, insert:

**"SECTION 2. EXPIRATION DATE.** This Act is effective through July 31, 2001, and after that date is ineffective.

**SECTION 3. EMERGENCY.** This Act is declared to be an emergency measure."

Re-number accordingly

Engrossed SB 2309 was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar.

**1999 TESTIMONY**  
**SB 2309**

## **AMTA Commission on Massage Therapy Accreditation**

In 1989, AMTA authorized the creation of the Commission on Massage Training Accreditation/Approval (COMTAA). Over the following years, AMTA supported the development of COMTAA into an independently elected and operated accreditation agency; in 1997 it voted to change the name to the Commission on Massage Therapy Accreditation (COMTA). AMTA COMTA's mission is to maintain and improve quality assurance in massage therapy and bodywork education by recognizing postsecondary schools and programs through an accreditation process. Schools and programs achieve this recognition by continually demonstrating their compliance with and commitment to standards developed and monitored by the Commission. This process ensures that students receive quality training, that the industry receives competently trained practitioners and that the public receives quality services.

### **AMTA COMTA**

Carole Ostendorf, Chair  
Barry S. Delin, Lead Staff  
820 Davis St., Suite 100  
Evanston, IL 60201  
(847) 864-0123  
Fax (847) 864-1178

## **AMTA Foundation**

The American Massage Therapy Association Foundation was incorporated in November of 1990 to promote and advance the profession and the public understanding of massage therapy through public solicitation and the awarding of grants for Research, Community Outreach, Educational Scholarship and Conferences as a nonprofit public charity.

The American Massage Therapy Association Foundation was created to bring the benefits of massage therapy to the broadest spectrum of society through the generation, dissemination and application of knowledge in this field. We do this by receiving and granting funds for Research, Community Outreach, Educational Scholarship and Conferences.

### **AMTA Foundation**

Janet R. Kahn, Ph.D., President  
744 Thayer Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
(301) 585-7240 or (301) 589-0123  
jkahn@igc.apc.org

## **National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork**

In 1992, AMTA supported the creation of the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (NCBTMB). NCBTMB was designed to protect the consumer, the profession and employers by ensuring that individuals who attain this national certification possess core skills, ability, knowledge and attributes consistent with general massage therapy standards and criteria. National certification requires massage therapists to provide periodic evidence that they participate in lifelong learning to keep current with advancing definitions of competency.

### **NCBTMB**

Marlene Hundley, Chair  
Christine Neiro, Executive Director  
8201 Greensboro Drive, Suite 300  
McLean, VA 22102  
(800) 296-0664 or (703) 610-9015  
Fax (703) 610-9005

# COMTA NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE COMMISSION ON MASSAGE THERAPY ACCREDITATION - 1997, ISSUE 2

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## ON-SITE TEAM MEMBERS NEEDED!

COMTA relies on teams of people knowledgeable about massage therapy, educational methods, and administrative practices to gather and assess information from programs seeking accreditation. We train you in the process and a team leader guides you through the on-site visit. Call or write us for further information, if you'd like to participate in the enriching experience of peer assessment.

Also, serving as an on-site team member can be a great way to get ready for your own program's accreditation process. You'll learn what the team does on-site and how the team uses the Self Study material. This knowledge and the confidence it engenders can be a significant help to your program.

## WHAT'S NEW

COMTA held its fall 1997 meeting October 16-19 in Milwaukee, WI. Looking at possible changes in standards and policies proved to be the main focus of this meeting.

The debate continues about how many hours it takes to graduate a competent entry level massage therapist. Current practice varies from 300 to 2200 hours. In the face of this disparity, COMTA has been asking itself, "how is it possible to determine what the number of hours really needs to be?" The Commission is exploring this and similar questions in depth in order to establish standards that are both valid and reliable.

At the October meeting, we were educated on one specific method of validation and we are searching for others. We are committed to basing all of our standards, especially those on curriculum, on empirical studies. We know that a job or task analysis is the foundation for such studies. That means we need methods to gather information from recognized competent practitioners and their teachers, employers, and clients. Once a job analysis is done, it is possible to establish statistical norms upon which standards can then be developed.

In keeping with current developments in education, we are taking into consideration the "outcomes based" approach. This is in contrast to solely relying on an "inputs and methods" approach. A focus on outcomes requires that we be able to specify what a student can do as a result of completing instruction. This focus on doing is especially relevant to a hands-on

profession like massage therapy. There is a national movement (sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor) that is promoting "skills based standards" in vocational education. Skills based standards are another way of saying outcome based education.

We recognize that it is a complex task to validate standards. And we also know that to excel as an accrediting body, we must have a rationale for our standards which is based upon systematic research and accepted professional practice.

In other Commission work, we dealt with refining our relationships with AMTA and the National Certification Board. You will also notice our newly minted mission statement. And of course, we continue to work toward USDE recognition. This means carefully examining their regulations and then revising our policies and procedures to assure that COMTA is in compliance. The "Notice" section in this newsletter is an example of such a change—we are required to notify our publics about upcoming accreditation decisions and invite comments.

Finally, the Commission drafted the first of a series of anticipated revisions to COMTA standards. These will be sent out soon for stakeholder comment. We value the input of schools, practitioners, and other concerned parties and we will need that input in writing. We intend to stay in close touch with the profession and need to know what you are thinking.

# LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

This is a tremendous time of transition for the Commission. One part of this transition is a name change. We are now the Commission on Massage Therapy Accreditation (COMTA). The change reflects the future direction of the Commission.

COMTA continues to move toward recognition by the U.S. Department of Education. The Standards Committee has drafted revisions to the standards and will be sending them out in the near future for your feedback. We are counting on your response and feedback to these proposed revisions.

In addition, the American Massage Therapy Association and COMTA have approved a multiyear agreement beginning March 1, 1998, which outlines the relationship between the two groups. The agreement

covers the operational and fiscal support provided by AMTA, thus providing a stable base for COMTA activities. The agreement clarifies the scope of COMTA's independence over its operations and accreditation deliberations. All of this is achieved in a way that allows COMTA to remain part of the AMTA organizational structure while meeting USDE requirements.

This has been an essential and exciting moment in the ongoing deliberate and careful movement of COMTA and AMTA in the recognition of COMTA as a professional accrediting agency. At the same time, this movement provides assurance to the profession of massage therapy in the integrity of its value to the public and in the eyes of other professions.

*Carole Ostendorf, Ph.D.*

## WHO WE ARE: A PROFILE OF..

### BARRY DELIN

Barry began as COMTA's first full time administrator in November 1996 and brings a richly textured background in education and policy analysis. Though he'd had only one full body massage before joining COMTA, he's quickly learned much about massage therapy education by reading, reviewing annual reports, working with AMTA staff, and participating on site-visit teams.

This immersion has given him an appreciation for the variety of practices and the depth of knowledge it takes to be a good massage therapist. He's been impressed by the quality of people in the profession, especially school personnel.

His professional work experience before he joined the Commission includes a faculty position teaching Political Science at the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire. He also served in both administrative and instructional positions at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. More recently, Barry worked as a policy analyst for the non-profit Chicago Panel on School Policy, where his research focused on the relationships among resources, programs and student outcomes in public K-12 education in urban and suburban

school districts. Barry has a Ph.D. in Political Science and a Masters in Public Policy Analysis.

Barry has a deep commitment to education and its potential as a source of social mobility and empowerment. And although the reality may be that access to quality education reflects existing social stratification, he holds out hope that quality education may soften the barriers that prevent people from achieving economic independence and more control over their lives. This idealism about the role of education in our lives serves COMTA well because Barry understands that quality and excellence in education translates into competent people who can lead self-directed lives.

USDE recognition is a major focus for Barry, as well as building upon the foundation constructed by the members of PARC/COMTAA and by Margaret McIlvain, the part time COMTAA Manager who preceded Barry. His experience in policy analysis, a field that looks at how to effectively use resources to reach desired goals, will come in handy at COMTA which, as it formulates policy, will need to constantly think about that type of issue.

### COMTA NEWS

Published by the Commission on Massage Therapy Accreditation (COMTA)

820 Davis Street, Suite 100  
Evanston, IL 60201-4444  
phone /847.864.0123 Ext. 40  
fax /847.864.1178

### EDITORS

Elaine Granata, Beth Geno,  
Brian Matayoshi.

### COMTA

**COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF**  
Commissioners serve on standing committees and are elected to represent specific communities of interest

**Carole Ostendorf**  
(COMTA Chair, evaluation committee, school administrative)

**Beth Geno**  
(COMTA Vice Chair, communications committee, school administrative)

**Judy Dean**  
(evaluation committee, school academic)

**Linda Derick**  
(evaluation committee, school academic)

**Irving Freeman**  
(standards committee, public member)

**Elaine Granata**  
(communications committee, public member)

**Brian Matayoshi**  
(communications committee, professional educator)

**Jack Thomas**  
(standards committee, massage therapy practitioner)

**Diane Trieste**  
(standards committee, employer of massage therapists)

### STAFF

**Barry Delin**  
Administrator

**Claire Dollnar**  
Assistant to the Administrator

# COMMITTEE WORK

## *Standards Committee*

A current focus of the Standards Committee's work is COMTA's effort to become recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as the accrediting agency for massage therapy. The USDE has "standards for standards," so the Committee has reviewed the COMTA Standards and recommended changes to ensure that all of the areas required by the USDE are covered. These recommended changes soon will be distributed to stakeholders (including schools) for comment prior to final approval by COMTA.

A second area of focus for the Standards Committee is the development of a process for continual assessment of the reliability and validity of the Standards. The Standards must reflect the characteristics of schools that actually impact the training of qualified massage therapists and the accreditation process must accurately measure the extent to which those characteristics are present.

Gilham, Director of Education at the Mac Massage Therapy Institute, has been assisting the Committee with this project.

## *Evaluation Committee*

At the October meeting, the Evaluation Committee rigorously "stressed" the policies and procedures that constitute our internal and external processes. With a year of experience and two Commission meetings behind us, we recognize the necessity to improve the quality and reliability of these processes

so that COMTA can function in an orderly and effective way. It is the Evaluation Committee that is charged with this task of alignment, that is, of making sure that COMTA's procedural ducks are in a row.

Over the next three years the Commission will be actively reviewing programs applying for accreditation for the first time and currently accredited programs that are coming up for renewal. We will simultaneously be preparing the equivalent of our own "Self Study Report," as we petition for U.S. Department of Education recognition.

We are working to balance the management of this tremendous upcoming workload with COMTA's financial and personnel resources so that our activities can progress with both due speed and integrity. We have acted to make sure that there is consistent and reasonable scheduling of reaccreditation reviews, while assuring ample scheduling opportunities for approved programs to embark on the accreditation process.

Finally, the Evaluation Committee has started a huge task, one that will provide a major focus for activities over the upcoming months. The Committee is exploring how to revise COMTA's site visit procedures. Our objective is to streamline the site visit so that it is as economical as possible for all involved (the school, the site team, and COMTA) without compromising our deep commitment to an individualized and thorough evaluative experience at each and every school.

## *Communications Committee*

The Committee focused on three major items: improvements to the COMTA brochure, the need for public notification, and the Commissioner's role in public communication.

The Committee discussed finalizing the general purpose COMTA brochure in a more professional format. This would include the development of a COMTA logo. In addition, the Committee began planning other brochures with more specific content that could be helpful to programs that want to start the accreditation process.

USDE recognition criteria require that COMTA notify the public of many of our actions and to get input on standards and policies. The Committee explored ways to better notify our many publics and to encourage them to respond.

Lastly, the Committee initiated a substantive discussion about the Commissioner's role in public communication. We want to insure that Commissioners behave ethically and keep confidences while being ambassadors for COMTA. Yet, we also value opportunities to talk about accreditation and COMTA because we believe strongly in the importance of accreditation in raising and maintaining high levels of excellence in massage therapy education.

## COMTA MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Commission on Massage Therapy Accreditation, a non-profit independent body, is to maintain and improve quality assurance in massage therapy and bodywork education by recognizing postsecondary schools and programs through an accreditation process. Schools and programs achieve this recognition by continually demonstrating their compliance with and commitment to standards developed and monitored by the Commission. This process assures that students receive quality education and training, and therefore, that the industry receives competently trained practitioners and the public receives quality services.

## NOTICES:

At the time of publication, the Commission anticipates that it will be considering accreditation actions involving the following schools at its April 16-19, 1998 meeting:

Florida College of Natural Health

Lakeside School of Natural Therapeutics

Pennsylvania School of Muscle Therapy, Ltd.

Brian Utting School of Massage

Comment from affected parties can be made in writing by March 15 to the COMTA Administrator, 820 Davis Street, Suite 100, Evanston, IL 60201-4444



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## COMTA ACCREDITATION WORKSHOP

Sunday, January 25, 1998, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

AMTA Council of Schools Annual Meeting  
Cancun, Mexico.

The main purposes of this workshop are to provide school owners and staff with detailed information about COMTA accreditation and to help prepare them for the self-study process.

Participants may pre-register by contacting the Assistant to the COMTA Administrator at 847 864-0123 ex. 40. Please pre-register for the workshop by January 9, 1998.

(Note: Those intending to attend the COS Annual Meeting must pre-register for that meeting by December 19, 1997.)

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### A REMINDER FOR SCHOOLS OFFERING APPROVED PROGRAMS

The annual sustaining fee due with your next annual report (March 1, 1998) can be credited toward your accreditation application fee should you apply for COMTA accreditation before March 31, 1999. This option will not be available after the end of the approved program status.

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## COMTA

Commission on Massage Therapy Accreditation  
820 Davis Street, Suite 100  
Evanston, IL 60201-4444

### READERS' FORUM

The editors welcome your

comments about COMTA NEWS.

Please write to us at COMTA

NEWS, COMTA,

820 Davis Street, Suite 100

Evanston, IL, 60201-4444

or fax us your letter at

(847) 864-1178.



**Professional  
Institute of  
Massage  
Therapy Ltd.**

4553 9th Ave. S.W. Suit 2, Fargo, ND 58103

(701) 281-5078  
pimt@fargocity.com

To: The Industry, Business and Labor Standing Committee  
Chairperson: Senator D. Mutch  
Re: **Senate Bill No. 2309**

Dear Standing Committee Member:

I, as the administrator of a massage therapy school in North Dakota, support this bill. We are in full agreement with the raising of the minimum educational requirement from 500 hours to 750 hours.

Our school is a two year, full time program that teaches a lot more than the minimum. In Canada, where two of our school are located, 2200 hours is the requirement. While we don't necessarily feel that the standard needs to be this high, we do feel that 500 hours is not enough time to teach all the skills needed to effectively treat the various physical and medical conditions that the massage therapist might encounter. In fact, in our first year alone, we teach over 500 hours of Anatomy, Physiology and Pathology. A higher standard will better prepare the massage therapist and will improve his or her standing in both the medical and local community. Also, from what I understand, insurance companies will be more willing to insure massage therapy when the standards are higher. In many provinces of Canada, massage therapy is included in the medical coverage.

Thank You for considering this bill

Michael Stafford  
Administrator  
Professional Institute of Massage Therapy

TESTIMONY ON BEHALF OF STATE BOARD OF MASSAGE  
IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2309

January 28, 1999

James C. Fleming  
Assistant Attorney General

Good morning, Chairman Lee and members of the Senate Political Subdivisions Committee. My name is Jim Fleming, and I am the assistant attorney general appointed to represent the State Board of Massage. I am appearing today on behalf of the Board, and not on behalf of the Office of Attorney General, to request a "do-pass" recommendation on Senate Bill 2309.

Currently, the Board of Massage requires 500 hours of classroom instruction. Other representatives from the massage therapy profession and the schools of massage in this state have already testified or will testify in support of the bill. The Board met on January 16 and voted to support Senator Tomac's proposal as an improvement on current law. Increasing the minimum number of classroom hours will help protect the public by ensuring that massage therapists are sufficiently trained.

Senate Bill 2309 is a good bill and the Board asks for a "do-pass."

A program situated in a larger institution must demonstrate that its mission is compatible with the mission and educational objectives of that institution.

## 2. Curricula

Courses reflect current thinking in the field in the areas of theory, technique and practice and are organized systematically and in detail. The institution has taught this program for a minimum of two years and has graduated a minimum of two classes prior to application.

### A. Core curriculum

A curriculum that meets COMTA standards requires a minimum of 500 clock hours of classroom and clinical instruction conducted or directly supervised by qualified faculty members. The number of clock hours and the maximum and minimum allowable time for completing the program must be consistent with the program's mission and for achieving effective instruction.

The program curriculum must include at least the required subject matter and the hours allotted to each required area must be adequate for students to gain competence. The curriculum must contain at least the following program elements:

1. Anatomy, Physiology, and Pathology (120 hours minimum).
2. Massage Therapy Theory, Technique, and Practice which includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Gliding Strokes
- Kneading
- Direct Pressure
- Deep Friction
- Superficial Warming Techniques
- Percussion
- Compression (pumping)
- Vibration
- Jostling, Shaking, Rocking

3. Contraindications, benefits, universal precautions, body mechanics, business, history, ethics, and legalities of massage and professional standards regarding draping and modesty.



# Sister Rosalind Gefre's School of Professional Massage

*not present*

McMerty Center, 619 7<sup>th</sup> Street North, Suite L  
Fargo, ND 58102


Phone: (701) 297-5993  
Fax: (701) 297-5994

January 27, 1999

TO: Executive Board  
AMTA/ND Chapter

Dear Officers and Board Members,

I am writing regarding Senate Bill No. 2309 which if passed, will have the effect of changing the current educational and training requirements for licensing massage therapists in the state of North Dakota. The current requirement is 500 hours and Bill #2309 increases that requirement to 750 hours. As school director for a school of massage therapy, we are in total support of Bill #2309. The increase in number of hours education/training required for licensure only ensures that the practitioner is better educated and trained in the field of massage therapy, and furthers the profession itself to a higher level of standards. It will also benefit the student and practitioner in the long run by lending more credibility to the profession, thereby making massage therapy more acceptable to insurance companies and other healthcare professionals. I strongly urge the passing of this bill in the better interest of our students and the profession itself.

Sincerely,  
  
Carrie Shigematsu  
School Administrator-Fargo Campus

Saint Paul Campus • 400 Selby Avenue Suite G • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102 • 612/228-0960  
Rochester Campus • 300 Elton Hills Drive NW • Rochester, Minnesota 55901 • 507/286-8608

*"God created our bodies to function in health to achieve the fullness of life." -Sister Rosalind Gefre-*

TESTIMONY ON BEHALF OF STATE BOARD OF MASSAGE  
IN SUPPORT OF ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 2309

March 1, 1999

James C. Fleming  
Assistant Attorney General

Good morning, Madame Chairman and members of the House Human Services Committee. My name is Jim Fleming, and I am the assistant attorney general appointed to represent the State Board of Massage. I am appearing today on behalf of the Board, and not on behalf of the Office of Attorney General, to request a "do-pass" recommendation on Engrossed Senate Bill 2309.

Currently, the Board of Massage requires 500 hours of classroom instruction. Other representatives from the massage therapy profession and the schools of massage in this state have already testified or will testify in support of the bill. The Board met on January 16 and voted to support Senator Tomac's proposal as an improvement on current law. Increasing the minimum number of hours will help protect the public by ensuring that massage therapists are sufficiently trained.

The Senate amendments remove the requirement that instruction be provided in the "classroom" setting. However, the bill continues to require that the instruction be supervised. The Board stresses that this requirement is important to assure the quality of the instruction that the students receive.

Engrossed Senate Bill 2309 is a good bill and the Board asks for a "do-pass."

SB2309

Mr. or Madam Chairman, and members of the committee, my name is Gail Hovden from Bismarck, N.D. I am a licensed massage therapist of 7½ years, and also serve as Secretary for the American Massage Therapy Ass. North Dakota Chapter. I am in favor of Senate Bill 2309 because I do see this profession to be kept at a professional level, and by increasing the hours and having an approved curriculum from a National recognized organization that specifically accredits massage schools, I believe the person truly wanting to be a massage therapist will not hesitate to put in the time and effort that is asked of them by this law and take this profession seriously and keep it at a respectable and professional level.

Thank-you

Gail M. Hovden  
L.M.T.

SB2309

Mr. or Madam Chairman and members of the committee. My name is Karen Wojahn from Beach, N.D.. I'm the President of the American Massage Therapy Association of N.D.. I've been a licensed massage therapist for 10 years. I've been Pres. for 3 years. I come here today representing the Chapter.

There are 240 licensed massage therapists in the state. There are 170 AMTA members. We had our convention April 98. We voted as a group to have these changes. Both



AMTA members and other licensed massage therapists talked and voted together.

At one time it was 1000 hrs, we changed it to 500 hrs cause there was a lack of schools that had 1000 hrs. As our profession keeps growing schools are using their hrs. We as massage therapists do more physical touch on people than anyone in the state. We need more education and by increasing it to 750 hrs. We feel the schools can adjust without alot of problems.

We have asked that AMTA/  
COMTAA be used as a guide line  
only because we have asked  
the state board to do so ever  
since the last Legislative  
session. There are not any  
administrative rules at this point  
in time for the schools to follow.  
So until they do sit down and  
come up with administrative  
rules it is important to have  
these guidelines. AMTA/COMTAA  
is a Nat'l organization that  
approves Massage Therapy Schools.  
I Thank-You for your time + effort.  
Sincerely Karen Wojahn



**Professional  
Institute of  
Massage  
Therapy Ltd.**

4553 9th Ave. S.W. Suit 2, Fargo, ND 58103

(701) 281-5078  
pimt@fargocity.com

To: Human Services Standing Committee  
Chairperson: C. Price

Re: **Senate Bill No. 2309**

Dear Standing Committee Members:

I, as the administrator of a massage therapy school in North Dakota, support this bill. We are in full agreement with the raising of the minimum educational requirement from 500 hours to 750 hours.

Our school is a two year, full time program that teaches a lot more than the minimum. In Canada, where two of our school are located, 2200 hours is the requirement. While we don't necessarily feel that the standard needs to be this high, we do feel that 500 hours is not enough time to teach all the skills needed to effectively treat the various physical and medical conditions that the massage therapist might encounter. In fact, in our first year alone, we teach over 500 hours of Anatomy, Physiology and Pathology. A higher standard will better prepare the massage therapist and will improve his or her standing in both the medical and local community. Also, from what I understand, insurance companies will be more willing to insure massage therapy when the standards are higher. In many provinces of Canada, massage therapy is included in the medical coverage.

Thank You for considering this bill

Michael Stafford  
Administrator  
Professional Institute of Massage Therapy