

March 14th, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

The Alaska Board of Massage opposes the HB0169A. This proposed legislation will have a negative impact on licensees. HB1069A weakens the review of applicants with criminal records, it decreases competency requirements of apprenticeship applicants and weakens a municipalities ability to address the concerns of their citizens.

Relating to occupational licensing fee for low-income workers and military families

- Establishing waivers of licensing fees increases the burden of licensing expense on licensees as the full funding of the professional licensing program is derived from licensing fees.

Relating to licensing of individuals with criminal records

- The Board of massage therapists has established regulations and processes that ensure that public safety is assured through the crimes of moral turpitude and disciplinary matrix specific to the profession of massage therapy.
- The Board of Massage therapy utilizes the process of Fitness to Practice Reviews to determine that an applicant has rightful due process and is safe and competent to practice in the State of Alaska.

Relating to apprenticeship programs

- The Board of Massage Therapists has established an apprentice program that meets industry standards of competency and safety to practice as a licensed massage therapist. An approved massage apprenticeship programs acceptable curriculum is based upon competencies per subject matter and not a simple total of completed hours.

Relating to lobbying

- The Board understand the legislation of HB0169A specific targeting of lobby restrictions of municipalities to be an overreach that does not serve the interests of Alaska citizens.

Best Regards,



David Edwards-Smith

Chair Alaska Board of Massage Therapists