



Associated Bodywork & Massage Professionals

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April 18, 2023

TO: Sens. Huffman, Johnson, Antonio, Hackett, Ingram, Romanchuk

CC: Sen. Roegner

RE: ABMP Supports SB 56, the Interstate Massage Compact

VIA EMAIL

Associated Bodywork & Massage Professionals (ABMP) provides professional liability insurance, business resources, professional publications, and legislative and regulatory advocacy for more than 80,000 members nationwide, including over 1,500 members in Ohio.

ABMP is writing in support of Senate Bill 56, the Interstate Massage Compact (Compact). We are proud to partner with the Council of State Governments and the Department of Defense to draft this language and believe the Compact is ultimately a benefit to massage therapists, as it will allow licensed practitioners to gain employment easier and faster in other compact states.

The Compact will be advantageous to military families moving around the country, reduce financial burdens of massage therapists requiring and paying for multiple state licenses, and may affect Ohio's bottom line with potential increased taxable income. The Compact will also assist the Ohio State Medical Board by enhancing public safety, reducing application processing time, and expanding cooperation among state regulatory boards.

The Compact bill language was carefully drafted to ensure that licensed massage therapists will be properly educated and vetted. Once a minimum of seven states passes the bill and the Interstate Massage Compact Commission drafts rules, massage therapists in participating states will be able to obtain a multi-state license so long as they have 625 hours of education and no encumbrances against their license in their home state. Participating states will require continuing education for license renewal, criminal background checks, and a disciplinary process.

ABMP fully supports the Compact's efforts to increase the mobility of lawfully practicing massage therapists in compact-participating states and encourages the Legislature to adopt the Interstate Massage Compact.

Please contact ABMP Government Relations Director Lance Hostetter at lance@abmp.com or by phone at 719-588-7310 if you have comments or questions.

Sincerely,

Lance Hostetter, Government Relations Director
Associated Bodywork & Massage Professionals