

3203



**From:** Carolyn Virostek  
**To:** ST. Regulatory Counsel  
**Subject:** Regulation #16A-724 (IRRC #3203)  
**Date:** Monday, July 2, 2018 10:12:19 PM

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Regarding: Regulation #16A-724 (IRRC #3203)

As a massage therapist I am appealing the suggestion of increasing the licensing fee from \$65 to \$200. Medical doctors pay \$200-350 but they have a much higher income potential than massage therapist will ever be able to make. The CEU requirements for MT with the child abuse classes etc can cost a lot too with some costing \$500+ it can be cost prohibitive for therapists to pay this increase in fees.

I wish I could get a raise with that kind of percentage increase - \$65 increased to \$200?!! This increase is cost prohibitive to a profession that according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the median salary for massage therapists is **\$39,860** per year. And now you want to increase their renewal fee by 3 times? If our income could increase by 3 times, then we can talk BUT people and franchises are actually decreasing the value and pay for MT's.

This increase is outrageous for a profession that on average makes less than \$40,000.

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