

3203

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Independent Regulatory
Review Commission

From: Dreher, Janet
To: ST. Regulatory Counsel; ST. MASSAGE THERAPY
Subject: Regulation #16A-724 (IRRC #3203)
Date: Tuesday, July 3, 2018 12:42:40 AM

I have recently learned of the proposed increase of PA Massage Therapist licensing fee from \$75 to \$200. No one likes to see increases in fees, especially an increase of nearly 160%. This increase should it go into effect for the next renewal period January 2019 does not give therapists much time to budget/plan/save for such a dramatic increase. Many MT's, such as myself (based on the hours worked) are part time and this increase would be hardship for them.

The median salary for a massage therapist is less than \$50k/yr and from that we need to deduct costs of materials, ie, equipment and tools necessary to perform our services; costs of continuing education, professional fees. If an MT is not covered under the medical coverage of a significant other, medical insurance would be another expense.

I've been informed that this increase was considered years ago, but for whatever reason was not acted on. Why should we suffer for the poor planning/implementation of our Board? The debts of the Board have been there since licensing began, so the increase(s) should have been and should be gradual over the next three/four renewal periods.

The Board should also be in a position to notify it's members via e-mail of this pending action. Had it not been for a Facebook post, many of us would have been blind sided by this huge increase come time to renew our license. If the Board does not have the capability of notifying its own members, then action should be taken to gather our e-mails going forward so that notifications such as this is a simple click of a button.

I understand the need for the increase, but how many businesses could afford to increase their rates by 160% and not lose business? My clients would not understand/appreciate such an increase in one year!! The PA Board should give the same consideration/respect to its members.

I respectfully ask that you reconsider the proposed increase to something more manageable /incremental over several renewal periods.

Respectfully,

Janet R. Dreher, LMT
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