

# 3203

**From:** Christopher Deery  
**To:** ST\_RegulatoryCounsel  
**Subject:** Massage License fee increases  
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My issue - and it is my only issue about the fee increase, is that there is little perceived value for the license. The majority of the board attends a FSTMB conference, perceptually on the board's dime, yet the same board are saying that they are out of money. That there is little to no enforcement of the license - and investigations take 9-12 months. Unlicensed disciplines (Reiki, Trager, "Bodywork") are allowed to be continuing education providers to support the PA license, but are excluded as practitioners from this license under this act. There is no oversight by the massage board over schools, and a sexual predator could be approved by a school owner as an instructor in a massage therapy program with no formal massage training or license! The fixes to these issues could be easy ones - but up until now the focus of the board seems to be on making sure that PA promotes the FSTMB and their lethargically developed and proprietarily minded products rather than the issues of the licensees under their charge.

Don't get me wrong - I like being licensed, and I believe in licensure - but it seems that the actions of the board up to this point do not reflect responsible leadership. The fact that they have, in the past, have only listened to the FSTMB and have bought in to only one focus - that the FSTMB reflects the entire profession - presents a conflict of interest that needs to be remedied sooner rather than later. How many of the current PA Massage board hold volunteer positions with the FSTMB? Not to be too dramatic, but are representatives from the pharmaceutical industry allowed to be seated on medical boards?

For professional massage therapists, the fee increase may seem unexpected, but it is not cost prohibitive. Frankly, I feel it should have happened sooner. But along with the increase, as a licensed professional under this act, I expect to see responsible changes for the profession of massage therapy in Pennsylvania brought forward by the Pennsylvania Massage Therapy Licensing Board in the future.

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