



Associated Bodywork & Massage Professionals

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January 10, 2024

TO: Senators Blood and Hunt

RE: ABMP Comments on Legislative Bill 280

POSITION: Support

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.

ABMP is in support of Legislative Bill 280 (LB 280) regarding the Interstate Massage Compact (Compact). ABMP worked with the Council of State Governments and the Department of Defense to draft this language and believes LB 280 is ultimately a benefit to massage therapists, as it will allow licensed practitioners to gain employment more easily and faster in other compact states.

The Compact is a vastly superior alternative to onerous licensure-by-endorsement processes. It 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 Nebraska's bottom line with potential increased taxable income. LB 280 will also assist the Department of Health and Human Services 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 multistate 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 you to vote yes on LB 280.

Please contact me at lance@abmp.com if you have comments or questions.

Sincerely,

Lance Hostetter, Government Relations Director
Associated Bodywork & Massage Professionals