



Notice of proposed changes relating to licensure requirements, education requirements, license renewal, continuing education requirements, and application submissions in the regulations of the Board of Massage Therapists

Proposed Regulations - FAQ

November 2018

1. What is the purpose of the proposed regulations? What will this regulation do?

The purpose of the proposed regulations is to implement the changes to Sections 3 and 4 of House Bill 110 (HB 110) dealing with course of study requirements for qualifications for initial licensure, continuing education requirements, and fingerprint information requirements for license renewal, which will take effect on July 1, 2019, and to also update and clarify current regulations.

Proposed changes to 12 AAC 79.100 will update the required course of study hours from 500 to 625 of in-class supervised instruction and clinical work from an approved massage school effective July 1, 2019; additionally, the board will accept apprenticeship programs that meets the requirements and standards of the Commission on Massage Therapy Accreditation (COMTA) and the requirements of the Entry Level Analysis Project (ELAP) standards (there are currently none offered in Alaska. There is one in development by the Dept. of Labor). This will allow persons to be able to apply for a license by evidence of completion of a board-approved apprenticeship program. Also, effective July 1, 2019, the required hours for safety education covering bloodborne pathogens and universal precautions is changing from four to two hours.

Proposed changes to 12 AAC 79.110 will require that verifications or credentials such as transcripts, exam scores, and license verifications be sent directly from the appropriate agency to the division office.

Proposed new section 12 AAC 79.140 establishes the criteria for massage school education or curriculum requirements. To clarify the breakdown of what is required to be considered a massage therapy school or program.

Proposed changes to 12 AAC 79.200 will update the requirements for submitting fingerprints and fingerprint processing fees for license renewal to at least once every six years instead of every two years, i.e., if you submitted fingerprints and fingerprint processing fees with your renewal during the September 2017 renewal period, your next fingerprints and fingerprint processing fees won't be required until the September 2023 renewal period (while a time frame suggested by the Division is no fingerprints for 2019 renewal and starting in 2021 the 6 year increment will be started, it has not been voted on by the board).

Proposed changes to 12 AAC 79.210 effective July 1, 2019, will update the continuing education credit from four to two hours for completion of a bloodborne pathogens and universal precautions course once every six years.

Proposed new section 12 AAC 79.920 establishes a staleness date period for incomplete application file. To ensure that application can't remain pending for years and all information provided would remain relevant.

2. What are the costs to comply with the proposed regulations?

No additional cost. All application, renewal, and fingerprint processing fees would remain the same. A reduction of fingerprint processing fee of \$120 for two biennial renewal cycle.

3. Will the education requirements affect already licensed massage therapists?

No, the proposed changes to the education requirements will affect initial applicant trying to get licensed. However, proposed changes to the continuing education requirements for those who want to do bloodborne pathogen training as part of their CE's, the allowable amount hours will decrease from 4 to 2 hours.

4. When will the regulations be effective?

After public comment deadline, comments received are compiled and given to the Board for consideration. The Board may adopt the regulation as written/publicly noticed, may amend and adopt them, or choose to take no action, or may withdraw the proposed regulations in part or in its whole. After Board action, the adopted regulations goes to Department of Law (DOL) for final review/approval. DOL either approves or disapproves regulations. Once approved by DOL, it goes to the Lt. Governor for filing. Regulation takes effect on the 30th day after they have been filed by the Lt. Governor.

Do you have a question that is not answered here? Please email RegulationsAndPublicComment@alaska.gov so it can be added.