



DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

DANIEL O'CONNELL
SECRETARY OF HOUSING
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Professional Licensure
239 Causeway Street • Boston • Massachusetts • 02114

DANIEL C. CRANE
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF
CONSUMER AFFAIRS & BUSINESS
REGULATION

GEORGE K. WEBER
DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE

January 2, 2008

Dear Municipal Health Authority:

Chapter 135 of the Acts of 2006 of the Massachusetts General Laws significantly altered governmental oversight of massage therapy. Municipalities no longer have direct oversight of massage therapists, massage facilities, or massage schools. However, local authorities do retain sole jurisdiction over some "body work" practitioners specifically excluded from the new law.

The Board of Registration of Massage Therapy was not appointed until recently. Without a Board, regulations could not be promulgated, and the Division of Professional Licensure could not issue licenses or assume responsibility over inspection and enforcement. Without a viable alternative, municipalities have continued oversight despite a nebulous legal situation.

Regulations are now promulgated and individual applications are being accepted. Business and school application procedures will be announced at a later date. This means that municipalities should stop issuing licenses to massage therapists. However, files or other historical documents should be retained since one method of obtaining a Commonwealth license will be to demonstrate the issuance of a municipal license. If possible, DPL would like an electronic copy of your license files. We will use this for verification and to generate a mailing list of prospective applicants. Additionally, the Board would like to know about any "problematic" license holders in your jurisdiction.

Links to the rules and regulations, applications, and other public information will be on the Board's web site www.mass.gov/dpl/boards/mt. For applicants and other general users, there is an "Email-the-Board" link on the website. However, please feel free to contact me directly with any questions or to transmit data, my direct line is (617) 727-5369; my email is stephen.j.nemmers@state.ma.us.

Sincerely,

Stephen J. Nemmers, Ph.D.
Deputy Director

