**House Bill 81 (HB 81) and Senate Bill 55 (SB 55) - FAQ**

**American Massage Therapy Association - Ohio Chapter**

**What do the bills do?**

* *A loophole currently exists in Ohio law that allows individuals to perform massage, as long as they do not call what they are doing “massage therapy” or advertise their practice as “medical” or “therapeutic massage”.* ***HB 81 and SB 55 close this loophole.***

**Why does Ohio need this legislation?**

* *Ohio has a proud history of recognizing massage therapists as an integral part of the healthcare delivery system and has maintained a highly regarded license at the State Medical Board. Ohio’s loophole needs to be closed. Unlicensed massage puts patients at risk of harm and injury and puts LMTs in danger of bad actors.* ***At best, unlicensed massage could hurt patients due to untrained techniques, and at worst, is used as a front for human trafficking and prostitution.***

**Do HB 81 and SB 55 allow townships to increase fees on LMTs?**

* ***No. The $250 filling fee and $125 renewal fee mentioned in the bills are current law (and could be done today) and require a legislative action by the individual township trustees to be issued.***
* *Under current law, townships can regulate massage and can create and require their own township massage license. HB 81 and SB 55 delete their ability to “create a license” and amends their oversight ability.  Also, under current law, a township could pass a law requiring LMTs to get periodic physical exams to confirm that the LMT “is free of communicable diseases.”  HB 81 and SB 55 delete this ability.*

**What do HB 81 and SB 55 do for local governments?**

* *Both bills retain township and municipal (under home rule) authority to zone, set hours, and make laws considered necessary,* ***but******requires that any massage be done by an LMT****.*

**Will these bills help the large massage franchises only?**

* ***No. HB 81 and SB 55 will stop unlicensed massage****. All LMTs in good standing with the State Medical Board, no matter their location of business, will continue to be able to practice with no new oversight from the State of Ohio.*

 **Why should LMTs support these bills?**

* *Licensed Massage Therapists ARE trained limited practitioners of medicine.* ***These bills recognize LMTs as such and takes back our medical profession from bad actors such as human traffickers.*** *This bill prioritizes the health and safety of LMTs, our patients, and the entire State of Ohio.*