



Let Your Voice Be Heard

Dear AMTA Member,

Each year, thousands of bills are introduced to the Maryland House of Representatives and Senate. Our legislators have quite a job to simply keep up with all of them, even more of a job to make an informed decision on those bills that make it to a vote.

One very important part of the process is constituent support - that means - if it is important to you, it becomes important to your legislators. They need to hear from us.

We have HB1420 which got a favorable report with amendments from the Health and Government Operations Committee. It is expected to get to the full house for a vote promptly. A positive vote in the house would send it to the senate. Maryland's Massage Therapists and Practitioners are ready for their own Board, and your words to your representatives will help make that happen.

Now is the time to take a few minutes and make contact. Send emails, make phone calls, and send letters. Let your voice be heard!

Best wishes,
Maryland Chapter, American Massage Therapy Association
Sabrina Lopez, President
Amelia Mitchell, First Vice President
Sally Mendoza, Second Vice President
Rosa Compton, Secretary

Five Minutes - really that is all it takes.

This is where you find out who your representatives are:

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmmain.aspx?pid=legisrpage&tab=subject6>

Click the tab on the far right "Who Represents Me?"

Enter your address and you will get a pop-up box in which you can directly contact your Maryland Delegates and Senator.

What do I say?

You are writing to ask the delegate/senator to support House Bill 1420.

Reasons you can quote, or write your own:

Maryland Massage Therapists and Practitioners are ready and able to govern, regulate, and discipline themselves with a Massage Therapy Board of Examiners that is separate from the Chiropractor's Board. We have grown and developed as a profession over the last 10 years when licensing and registration began, it is time for this change.

The legislation is revenue neutral and will simply allow each profession to govern themselves. Massage Therapists attending to issues pertaining to our profession, and Chiropractors attending to issues that effect them.

The American Massage Therapy Association, Maryland Chapter represents over 1400 of us and completely supports the bill, as does the Maryland Association of Chiropractors.

TIP: Tell them a bit about yourself, a sentence or two, are you a LMT or RMP, where do you practice, let them know how important your work is for your clients. If you are an LMT you can discuss the healthcare aspects of your work.

You can get a prewritten email/letter [here](#).

Even More Ways to Make Contact

You are also encouraged to use the following information to make email, phone, or mail contact with your representatives.

PROTOCOL FOR CONTACT

To enable a response from the legislator's office, always include your full name, contact information, and legislative district or county.

By Mail:

The Honorable ___(NAME)____
House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable ___(NAME)____
Maryland Senate
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

By Email:

Delegate Bob Smith or Senator Bob Smith
Bob.smith@house.state.md.us or bob.smith@senate.state.md.us

By Phone:

800-492-7122 is the Maryland General Assembly's toll-free number that you can call and ask to speak with your representative.

Sample Phone Script:

Hello, my name is _____, from district _____, and I am calling to ask the delegate/senator to support House Bill 1420. (You may add reasons and more about yourself.)

Read House Bill 1420

Please take some time and read the bill so that you can understand it. We are very happy to tell you more about it and provide guidance on the process.

The full text can be found here: [House Bill 1420](#)

Wednesday, March 16th 9am - 3pm

Will You Join Us in Annapolis on March 16th? Please RSVP to
[Sally at vp2.amta.maryland@gmail.com](mailto:Sallyatvp2.amta.maryland@gmail.com).

About Legislative Day:

All AMTA members are invited and encouraged to join us in Annapolis on March 16th. As you have read above, 2016 is an important year, and having a strong presence will be important. Come spend a day in Annapolis, meet Legislators and their staff, provide chair massage, and make a difference for Massage Therapists in Maryland. Sally Mendoza is organizing our group - if you can come, or want more details, please contact Sally above.
