

Legislative Update and Survey Request

Greetings!

As you may have seen, this has been a busy legislative season with two bills awaiting signatures. We want to give you some updates and ask for your input for our legislative focus as we go forward.



2016 - 2017 Legislative Survey

Please take a few minutes to [click through and complete our survey!](#) It is time to plan for the future and first we want to know what is important to our members.



Legislative Update

Amelia Mitchell, 1st VP

2016 has already been quite a legislative whirlwind!

We do need to start by mentioning the elephant in the room. HB 1420 has been passed by the Maryland Senate, unanimously, and the Maryland House of Delegates.



At this time we are simply waiting for one of three actions by Governor Hogan: 1. Sign the bill 2. No signature and bill automatically becomes law 3. Veto the bill. We really prefer options 1 and 2, and have no reason to believe that the Governor will not approve the bill. We simply don't know when that will happen and are holding our celebrations until that time.

House Bill 1420 - Separate Boards for MTs and Chiropractors

Many years ago, massage therapy started as an advisory board with the Chiropractic Board, then the board was changed to be the Chiropractic and Massage Therapy Examiners Board. Now, we have HB 1420 which creates two separate boards - one for our friends the Chiropractors, and another for Massage Therapy. This is something that many of us are happy about. It is revenue neutral, and will allow the massage board to focus on massage therapy while the chiropractors can focus on their industry.

Thank you to all the AMTA Volunteers who have worked for years towards this goal!

A shout out to the Maryland Chiropractic Association for their support as well!

The bill is very simple and doesn't make any other changes beyond separating the boards. When signed* the process will begin to create our new board, which will have oversight and regulatory responsibilities for our industry.

We see this as a wonderful opportunity to continue the process of fine tuning as well as improving things for LMTs and RMPs around Maryland. The focus of a state licensing board will always be to protect the public first, within that framework there is room for us to shine as a profession and build public trust and interest.

**See elephant above*



Sabrina Lopez, David Cox, and Amelia Mitchell after the Senate hearing for HB1420. Thanks to Marty Chamberlain for the photo!

House Bill 671 - Human Trafficking Prevention

This law will allow local law enforcement in Howard County the right to immediately request licenses and registrations at any massage establishment. This will allow them to more quickly respond to complaints and concerns about prostitution and human trafficking.

We got word of this bill first from members in Howard County, and they were rightly concerned. As originally written, the bill allowed the county government to enact local ordinances that could have added unnecessary red-tape, regulation, and expense to legally practicing LMTs and RMPs. When AMTA arrived in the committee hearing we discovered that we were the only ones in opposition to the bill, simply because its language was so broad. Thankfully, the Howard County delegation was very open to sitting down with us and the other interested parties and the bill was amended to a much narrower focus.

Both local AMTA and national have had the concerns of human trafficking and prostitution in the forefront for some time. We feel that this bill allows the local police to move quickly in a constantly changing illegal industry. They can readily determine whether a "massage therapist" has a license or registration and can arrest those who are operating illegally. None of us appreciate the shadow this illegal industry puts on our educated and law abiding members. We want to facilitate, not delay, the rescue of those who are being trafficked. We hope this brings increased arrests and prosecutions for the perpetrators of these crimes. We are confident that Howard County will share their results with the rest of the state. If this legislation is helpful, we anticipate supporting similar legislation state-wide.



Survey Reminder

Thank you again for your interest in our legislative efforts! They really are important!

Speaking of which - [please click here to answer our quick legislative survey](#) so we

can plan our actions for the rest of this year and the 2017 Maryland legislative session.

Looking for a great way to get your CEUs this year?

Your local chapter is offering all 7 required credits for \$70, in one day with lunch. Does it get better than that?

Click your preferred location for details and registration

[Saturday - June 25th in Rockville](#)

[Sunday - July 31st in Annapolis](#)

[Saturday - September 17th with CCBC in Essex \(registration coming soon\)](#)

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If you haven't already, please like our Facebook page and join our Facebook group. We use Facebook as one way to communicate events like our coffee and conversation get-togethers, as well as upcoming continuing education classes, and other news and events.



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and
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Your Maryland AMTA Board Members

Please feel free to contact us at any time with your questions or concerns.

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