



FSA Legislative Update Highlights

Slide 2 – FSMTA Legislative Awareness Days

The Florida State Massage Therapy Association visits Tallahassee every legislative session. Our visits usually consist of educating Legislators and their staff about the Massage Therapy profession. We also offer chair massage on the second floor rotunda at the capitol. The Association's Lobbyists set up meetings with key members of the Florida Senate and House to discuss any legislation that may impact the massage profession.

Slides 3-6 House Bill 851 (Human Trafficking Bill)

The original language of Bill 851 would have targeted the Massage Therapy Profession. The amended language changed the continuing education component as well as the human trafficking poster requirements to include many other Licensed Health Care Professionals under Florida Statute 456.

Slide 7 Human Trafficking Requirements

The Human Trafficking Poster required by Florida is detailed in this slide. If you would prefer to download the poster from the Department of Health you can visit <http://floridasmassagetherapy.gov/>. After you are on the Florida Board of Massage Therapy page click on the resources tab. Then you will click on Media and Publications, next click on Human Trafficking (English/Spanish), and finally download the poster. From there you can put this file on a thumb drive or external hard drive. Once you do this you can take it to Office Depot, Staples, or any other printing store. Remember to make sure the dimensions are 11in by 15in.



Slide 8 Human Trafficking Requirements

Every LMT is required to complete a Human Trafficking Continuing Education course by January 1, 2021. Please make sure your therapists are taking a course that was approved by the Florida Board of Massage Therapy. If a LMT does not have this course by January 1, 2021 they will not be in compliance with the law and could face discipline from the Board of Massage Therapy.

Slide 9 Designated Establishment Manager

The rule for a Designated Establishment Manager (DEM) has been the greatest area of confusion pertaining to Bill 851. Every Massage Establishment **MUST** have a LMT as a DEM. The word “Manager” is a bit of a misnomer. The purpose of a DEM is to be a liaison for the establishment owner in regard to Florida Laws and Rules pertaining to the massage profession. In addition to this, they are responsible for the establishment, as well as the LMTs, working in said establishment to be in compliance with Florida Laws and Rules. If a Massage Establishment Owner is not a LMT, many times an owner is not aware of changes that may occur to the profession.

Slide 10 Board of Massage Therapy

Quarterly the Board of Massage Therapy meets to discuss a number of topics that can affect the massage profession. A large portion of the meeting is to complete discipline cases. The most common issue that is brought before the board is “failure to report”. Any incident that results in a conviction, other than a minor traffic stop (parking tickets, speeding, etc.) must be reported to the board within 30 days. If reported within 30 days, most of the time, these incidents will not affect a LMT’s license. Failure to report will result in the LMT receiving a fine of \$250 per non reported incident, a reprimand on their license, and 10 hours of laws and rules continuing education above and beyond the requirement for renewal. Another important aspect of these meetings is the amendment or introduction of rules pertaining to the practice of massage therapy. This means there could possibly be changes to the rules four times a year.