



MARYLAND Department of Health

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

Maryland State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners

July 13, 2018

The Maryland State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners (the “Board”) invites you to participate in a Public Forum regarding the enactment of a “Massage Therapy Business Establishment Permit” law for the State of Maryland. The Public Forum will be held:

Date: Monday, July, 30 2018
Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Location: 4201 Patterson Ave, Room 110
Baltimore, MD

The purpose for the Public Forum is to share the Board’s potential FY19 legislative efforts to ensure public safety within the massage therapy industry and business community. The Board is interested in your thoughts and concerns regarding initiating a statewide effort that will require massage therapy business establishment owners to apply for and be granted approval to obtain a permit to provide massage therapy services within the State of Maryland. Specifically, this initiative will assist to appropriately address illegal activities such as human trafficking and prostitution that presently exists within the massage therapy business community.

You have been identified and selected as having an integral role within the massage therapy community either as an active MD State Licensee or Registrant, a massage therapy business establishment owner, or member of the law enforcement and criminal justice system. If you are unable to attend, we invite you send a representative.

The Board is a regulatory and disciplinary Board with responsibility of individual licensed and registered massage therapists. The Board has no jurisdiction over massage therapy business establishments, which includes the owners of the establishments. Without establishment jurisdiction, even the Board's strongest efforts to combat human trafficking and prostitution is limited to individual licensees; or owners who are also active licensees. Many times the individual licensees are the victims, working and/or being forced to work for business owners over whom we have no jurisdiction. A “Massage Therapy Business Establishment Permit” administered by the Board will significantly assist in the closing down of illegal activities doing business under the disguise of “massage therapy”.

To assist the Board in preparing for the Public Forum, please click on the following link to complete a short survey <https://goo.gl/forms/O4HWrlzAalXI2kPU2> by Thursday, July 26, 2018. We have also attached a Fact Sheet that provides additional background information.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please email Laurie Sheffield-James at laurie.sheffield-james@maryland.gov

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,
The Maryland State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners
Gwenda Harrison, Board Vice-Chair, Advisory Committee Chair
Margaret Hayes, Board Member, Advisory Committee Member
Caitlin Thompson, Board Member, Advisory Committee Member