

Dear WSMTA Membership:

There are two bills in the Washington State Legislature HB 1082/ SBB 5097, which would require Massage Therapists and Reflexologist to carry government issued photo ID on them whenever they do massage/reflexology. We want to receive feedback on what your opinions are regarding these bills -- whether you support them, are neutral to them or are against them.

### **Information About the Bills:**

Last year, the City of Vancouver initiated a bill to have licenses for massage therapists and reflexologists have photos on them. Their reasoning was that when police raid illegal places of business to investigate and shut down prostitution and human trafficking, they needed some means to correlate massage licenses or reflexology certificates on display in the building to the people within the building by photo. This bill failed, primarily because it would have cost millions of dollars for the Washington Department of Health to have implemented.

This year, the City of Vancouver has initiated a new round of bills asking that LMTs/Reflexologists carry government issued photo ID on them when practicing so that should their place of business be entered by authorities, the police can match massage licenses and reflexology certificates, which are legally required to be displayed, to the people in the building via the photo ID.

The original bill has been amended so LMTs/Reflexologists need only have the ID near them and not on them as was originally stipulated. The House and Senate bills have the same language but only the Senate website has the new substitute bill, the House does not yet have theirs on their website.

### **HB 1082 -- <https://apps.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=1082&Chamber=House&Year=2019>**

By clicking on the link for HB 1082 above, you can read the language of the original bill on this page. Also, there are two session videos available which you can watch which show the House Health Care & Wellness Committee discussion on this bill. (Note: Older versions of Internet Explorer may not work with the software.)

- January 25, 2019 Session <https://www.tvw.org/watch/?eventID=2019011238> The discussion on HB1082 starts at 11:55 minutes into the video and ends at 17:15 minutes.
- February 1, 2019 Session <https://www.tvw.org/watch/?eventID=2019021002> The discussion on HB1082 starts at 41:21 minutes into the video and ends at 41:41 minutes. They only mention a substitute bill which would allow the government issued photo ID need only be nearby and not physically on the LMT/Reflexologist.

### **SBB 5907 --<https://apps.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=5097&Chamber=Senate&Year=2019>**

By clicking on the link for SBB 5907 above, you can read the language of the original and current substitute bill on this page. Also, there are two session videos available which you can watch which show the Senate Health Care & Wellness Committee discussion on this bill. (Note: Older versions of Internet Explorer may not work with the software.)

- January 18, 2019 Session <https://www.tvw.org/watch/?eventID=2019011115> The discussion on SBB 5097 starts at 59:11 minutes into the video and ends at 1:09:13 minutes.

An Amendment to RCW 18.108.045 would add the following new section:

(2) A massage therapist licensed under this chapter or a reflexologist certified under this chapter must have government-issued photo identification on his or her person or have it be available for inspection by city, county, or state law enforcement or department personnel at all times he or she practices massage therapy or reflexology. The name of the massage therapist or reflexologist on the government-issued photo identification must match the name on the massage therapy license or reflexology certification.

Thank you!