

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

EAB 1/30/2004

LRB Number	03-2628/1	Introduction Number	AB-779	Estimate Type	Original
Subject					
Eliminating role of Educational Approval Board in certifying massage therapists and bodyworkers					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

The Educational Approval Board (EAB) is responsible for protecting consumers by approving postsecondary schools and the programs they offer. Currently, the EAB approves 126 for-profit and non-profit private schools, colleges, and universities serving more than 30,000 adults, including 17 private massage therapy and bodywork schools (13 in Wisconsin, 3 in Minnesota, and 1 in Michigan). The four out-of-state schools serve Wisconsin's residents and therefore require EAB approval.

The enactment of 2001 Wisconsin Act 74 amended Chapter 460 and expanded EAB's authority to qualify individuals for certification with the Department of Regulation and Licensing (DRL) as massage therapists or bodyworkers. Prior to Act 74, the EAB's role was limited to school and program approval -- never an individual's qualification for professional certification. That function solely had been the responsibility of the DRL.

The EAB worked cooperatively with DRL to implement Act 74 through the creation of an administrative rule. That interagency cooperation resulted in an agreed upon minimum standard that the EAB would use for certifying massage therapists or bodyworkers.

This bill eliminates any role for the EAB in certifying individuals as massage therapists. Because of the interagency cooperation with DRL, the EAB has never qualified an individual for certification under the provision established in Act 74 and no revenues have ever been generated. Therefore, the changes proposed in the bill will have no fiscal effect.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications