



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

**2009 Assembly Bill 588**

**Assembly  
Amendment 1**

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*Assembly Bill 588* makes changes in the current law related to regulation of massage therapists and bodyworkers. Under current law, persons are certified as massage therapists or bodyworkers by the Department of Regulation and Licensing (DRL), which is advised by the Massage Therapy and Bodywork Council. The bill creates a new Massage Therapy and Bodywork Therapy Examining Board in DRL. The bill also provides for licensure, rather than certification, and changes the term “bodyworker” to “bodyworker therapist.”

Current law prohibits the use of certain titles or initials unless the person is certified as a massage therapist or bodyworker. The bill also prohibits a person from providing massage therapy or bodywork therapy unless the person is licensed, with specified exceptions.

*Assembly Amendment 1* makes the following changes to the bill:

- The amendment changes the examining board that would be created by the bill to an affiliated credentialing board. The Massage Therapy and Bodywork Therapy Affiliated Credentialing Board would be in DRL and would be attached to the Medical Examining Board (MEB).
- The amendment retains the public member of the board as provided in the bill, but specifies that the public member must be a person who is recognized by or meets the established standards of a professional organization or credentialing association that recognizes a person in a practice after that person demonstrates an adequate level of training and competency and adherence to ethical standards.
- The amendment removes from the exception provisions of the bill the listing of specific types of practices that are part of the exception (e.g., Rolfing, Hellerwork, Feldenkrais). However, the amendment retains the provision that allows an exception for a person recognized by or meeting the established standards of a professional organization or credentialing association

that recognizes a person in practice after that person demonstrates an adequate level of training and competency and adherence to ethical standards.

- The amendment adds to the list of titles and initials that may not be used by a person without a credential, the terms “masseur” and “masseuse.”

**Legislative History**

The Assembly Committee on Health and Healthcare Reform recommended adoption of Assembly Amendment 1 and passage of the bill as amended, both by votes of Ayes, 13; Noes, 0.

The Assembly adopted Assembly Amendment 1, and passed the bill as amended, both by voice votes.

RNS:jal:jb