

The Sunrise Questionnaire Response for AB 1388 Proposes That California Consumers are Being Harmed by Lack of Massage Services Resulting from Onerous Local Regulations.

Just how Pervasive are Onerous Local Massage Ordinances?

The Associated Bodyworkers and Massage Professionals (ABMP) estimates that there are 25,000 massage practitioners in California. ¹

The Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education (BPPVE) lists 204 schools under the keyword massage. ²

Twenty-five thousand practitioners and 204 schools represent a very thriving collection of massage small businesses for a state supposedly seriously impacted by onerous local ordinances.

A random survey of local ordinances available online reveals a different story: ³

Table 1: Statistics of City Ordinance Hour Requirements

Cities that are silent on massage licensing	6	9.7%	9.7%
Cities that require 200 hours or less	28	45.2%	54.9%
Cities that require 201 to 300 hours	3	4.8%	59.7%
Cities with tiers that license at 300 hr. or less	8	12.9%	72.6%
Cities that require 500 hr. or more	14	22.6%	95.2%
Cities that license massage only as Adult Entertainment	3	4.8%	100.0%
Total	62	100.0%	100.0%

Over 72% of the local ordinances surveyed issue licenses to massage practitioners with 300 hours or less training. Less than 5% of cities license massage as adult entertainment, a category generally associated with more restrictive and onerous conditions.

More restrictive licensing is generally associated with particular local problems or attitudes that will likely persist with requirements designed for the state as a whole. Problems in massage regulation exist, but they are not pervasive. Local problems are best addressed locally.

There is no evidence that the state as a whole is negatively affected by onerous local regulations.

There is no evidence that massage consumers/clients within the state will be benefited rather than harmed by the effects of state intervention into massage regulation.

Please oppose AB 1388.

¹ Benson, Bob, 2003: Private Communication. (Bob Benson is president of ABMP, <<http://www.abmp.com/>>).

² BPPVE Website, 9 Dec 2003, <<https://app1.dca.ca.gov/bppve/school-search/>>

³ Boss, Burt, 2003: Private Communication. (Burt Boss is manager of the Desert Resorts School of Somatherapy, <<http://www.somatherapy.com/>>).