

VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING
ADVISORY BOARD ON MASSAGE THERAPY
ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, September 30, 2026, at 10:00 A.M.
Department of Health Professions
9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 201
Henrico, VA 23233
Board Room 3

1. Call to Order: Dr. Shawnté Peterson, L.M.T., Chair
2. Establishment of a Quorum
3. Announcements
4. Old Business
 - 4.1. Review and approval of minutes from October 16, 2025, meeting.
 - 4.2. The Interstate Massage Compact (IMpact): Ms. Bargdill
5. Public Comment/Open Forum
6. New Business
 - 6.1. Election of Officers: Dr. Peterson
 - 6.2. January to June 2027 Informal Conference and Formal Hearing schedules: Ms. Bargdill.
 - 6.3. Environmental Scan
 - 6.4. Implementation of the Massage Therapy Licensing Database (MTLD)
7. Reports
 - 7.1. L.M.T. Licensure Report: Ms. Bargdill
 - 7.2. L.M.T. Discipline Report: Ms. Bargdill
 - 7.3. 2026 FSMTB Massage Board Executive Summit, April 22-24, Providence, RI: Ms. Bargdill
 - 7.4. 2026 FSMTB Annual Meeting, October 21 to 23, Las Vegas, NV: Ms. Stoll
8. Information Only (No Action Required)
 - 8.1. FSMTB Annual Report
9. Discussion for Future Meetings

Our mission is to ensure safe and competent patient care by licensing health professionals, enforcing standard of practice, and providing information to health care practitioners and the public.

10. Adjournment of Meeting

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING
ADVISORY BOARD ON MASSAGE THERAPY
MINUTES**

Thursday, October 16, 2025

TIME AND PLACE: The meeting of the Massage Therapy Advisory Board convened at 10:00 a.m. in Training Room 2, Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 201, Henrico, Virginia.

PRESIDING: Shawnté Peterson, L.M.T., M.P.H., C.H.E.S., NADA, DAc, Chair

MEMBER PRESENT: Annie Lively, L.M.T., Vice Chair
Michael Tramonte, Administrator
Tracey Walker, L.M.T.

STAFF PARTICIPATING: Claire Morris, L.N.H.A., R.N., Executive Director
Christina Bargdill, B.S.N., M.H.S., R.N.
Candis Stoll, Senior Discipline & Licensing Specialist

OTHERS PARTICIPATING: Erin Barrett, Director of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs
Patricia L. Dewey, R.N., Discipline Case Manager
Candice Merrick, L.M.T., Licensing Specialist-Massage Therapy

PUBLIC PARTICIPATING: None

ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM: Dr. Peterson welcomed attendees and asked Ms. Stoll to perform a roll call of the Massage Therapy Advisory Board Members. With four (4) members present, a quorum was established.

Staff and public attendees were identified.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Michael Tramonte, President, Northern Virginia School of Therapeutic Massage, replaced Dawn Hogue, M.A., L.M.T., Executive Director, Commission on Massage Therapy Accreditation, in the Administrator/Faculty Member seat, term end date 2028.

Tracey Walker, L.M.T., filled the L.M.T. seat that was vacated by Candice Merrick, L.M.T., term end date 2028.

The Board of Nursing is moving to digital processing for travel vouchers so vouchers will be available for members' signatures through DocuSign.

OLD BUSINESS: The minutes from the Advisory Board of Massage Therapy meeting, held on October 30, 2024, were reviewed. There were no edits or corrections made to the minutes. Ms. Lively made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Walker and carried unanimously.

Ms. Bargdill provided an update on the Massage Compact that has passed the Virginia General Assembly. During the September Business Meeting for the Board of Nursing (“BON”), a motion to issue a Notice of Intended Regulatory Action to implement the Interstate Massage Compact passed unanimously. Five states have enacted the model legislation thus far. A total of seven states is required to, to move forward with implementation of the Massage Compact through the establishment of a Compact Commission. The Commission is responsible for creating rules to implement the provisions of the compact. Ms. Bargdill provided information about the Massage Therapy Licensing Database (“MTLD”) membership. Advisory Board members unanimously support moving forward with the process to participate in MTLD. Dr. Peterson made a motion to recommend that the BON join MTLD. Ms. Lively seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Ms. Bargdill took time to address questions about the Compact and education requirements pertaining to the Compact and to the Commonwealth. The Advisory Board members unanimously agreed that an increase from 500 hours to 625 hours of education would benefit the professional practice in Virginia without significant burden on individual licensees or the workforce.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dr. Peterson opened the meeting for public comment.

There was no public comment.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dr. Peterson announced that according to the By-laws, elections for both Chair and Vice-Chair must be held. Dr. Peterson is currently serving as Chair, and Ms. Lively is serving as Vice-Chair. Both are eligible to serve another term each.

Dr. Peterson moved to nominate herself to serve as Chair. Ms. Walker made the motion to nominate Dr. Peterson as Chair and was seconded by Ms. Lively. With no other nominees for Chair, Dr. Peterson was elected to Chair by acclamation.

Ms. Lively moved to nominate herself to serve as Vice-Chair. Ms. Walker made the motion to nominate Ms. Lively as Vice Chair and was seconded by Dr. Peterson. With no other nominees for Vice Chair, Ms. Lively was elected to Vice Chair by acclamation.

Ms. Bargdill offered dates for the Formal Hearing schedule for January – December 2026, as well as Informal Conferences scheduled for January – June 2026 and requested the Advisory Board members provide their availability for each set of dates.

Comments related to current trends and issues in the massage therapy education and practice environments included a discussion on the many types of trauma that can be experienced in the Massage Therapy industry. There was also a discussion regarding massage therapy education with regards to the subject of trauma-informed care. The Advisory Board agreed that there should be more education available on the topic of trauma-informed care.

REPORTS:

Ms. Bargdill presented the L.M.T. Licensure Report. The number of L.M.T. licenses issued this year is on track with the number of licenses issued in 2024. Ms. Bargdill noted that the LMT New Licenses Issued Chart reflects an increase in license renewals. Total number of licensees has built back up since a slight dip in licensees during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ms. Bargdill presented the L.M.T. Discipline Report. An increase in Discipline cases was noted in comparison with last year. The most significant increases noted are with unlicensed activity, inappropriate relationships, and criminal activity. The BON continues to receive and adjudicate education fraud cases.

Ms. Bargdill attended and submitted a written report for the 2025 FSMTB Massage Board Executive Summit that is attached. For the Advisory Board meeting, she highlighted topics of apprenticeship, education collaboration, and top legal trends impacting the massage industry.

Ms. Stoll attended the 2025 FSMTB Annual Meeting and served as voting delegate for Virginia. She provided an oral report to the Advisory Board that included a summary of topics as in the celebration of the last 20 years of FSMTB and looking to the next 20 years, and FSMTB's strategic plan. A written report will be provided to the BON.

INFORMATION ONLY:

Ms. Lively attended the Attorney General's Human Trafficking Summit 2025 and provided information about the Illicit Massage Industry and the impact on legitimate massage practitioners.

Ms. Bargdill presented information regarding the State Council for Higher Education in Virginia ("SCHEV") changes to the massage therapy curriculum requirements and program approval process. Ms. Bargdill highlighted the collaborative relationship between the BON and SCHEV, clarifying roles and jurisdiction of each agency in improving and maintaining professionalism in massage therapy.

FSMTB Annual Report, October 2025, is attached.

DISCUSSION OF
FUTURE MEETINGS:

Board staff will poll Advisory Board members in July 2026 for availability to meet in October 2026.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

Christina Bargdill, B.S.N., M.H.S., R.N.
Deputy Executive Director

BYLAWS**THE ADVISORY BOARD ON MASSAGE THERAPY
VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING****Article I - Members of the Advisory Board**

The appointments and limitations of service of the members shall be in accordance with Section 54.1-3029.1 of the Code of Virginia.

Article II - Officers

Section 1. Titles of Officers - The officers of the advisory board shall consist of a chairman and a vice-chairman elected by the advisory board. The Deputy Executive Director of the Board of Nursing shall serve in an advisory capacity.

Section 2. Terms of Office - The chairman and the vice-chairman shall serve for a one-year term and may not serve for more than two consecutive terms in each office. The election of officers shall take place at the first meeting after July 1, and officers shall assume their duties immediately thereafter.

Section 3. Duties of Officers.

a. Chairman

- (1) The chairman shall preside at all meetings when present, make such suggestions as he may deem calculated to promote and facilitate its work, and discharge all other duties pertaining by law or by resolution of the advisory board. The chairman shall preserve order and conduct all proceedings according to and by parliamentary rules and demand conformity thereto on the part of the members.
- (2) The chairman shall appoint members of all committees as needed.
- (3) The chairman shall act as liaison between the advisory board and the Board of Nursing on matters pertaining to certification, discipline, legislation and regulation of massage therapy.

b. Vice-Chairman

The vice-chairman shall preside at meetings in the absence of the chairman and shall take over the other duties of the chairman as may be made necessary by the absence of the chairman.

Article III - Meetings

Section 1. There shall be at least one meeting each year in order to elect the chairman and vice-chairman and to conduct such business as may be deemed necessary by the advisory board.

Section 2. Quorum - Three members shall constitute a quorum for transacting business.

Section 3. Order of the Agenda - The order of the agenda may be changed at any meeting by a majority vote.

Article IV - Amendments

Amendments to these bylaws may be proposed by presenting the amendments in writing to all advisory board members prior to any scheduled advisory board meeting. If the proposed amendment receives a majority vote of the members present at that regular meeting, it shall be presented for consideration and vote to the Board of Nursing at its next regular meeting.

ADVISORY BOARD ON MASSAGE THERAPY MEMBERS

(Revised September 2026)

SEAT NAME	NAME	END DATE
Licensed Massage Therapist	Dr. Shawnté Peterson, LMT, MPH, CHES, NADA, Dac— <i>CHAIR</i>	06/30/2027
Licensed Massage Therapist	Annie Lively, LMT— <i>VICE CHAIR</i>	06/30/2027
Licensed Massage Therapist	Tracey Walker, LMT	06/30/2028
Administrator/Faculty Member	Michael Tramonte	06/30/2028
Member of the General Public	Lisa Speller	06/30/2025*

*Term Expired

LICENSING REVENUE INFORMATION

LMT Total Count Payments Received	10/01/2024 to 09/30/2025	10/01/2025 to 08/31/2026
New Applications (initial & endorsement)	564	349
Duplicate License Request	198	149
Duplicate Wall Certificate Request	45	39
Reinstatement Applications after Discipline	2	1
Reinstatement Applications	74	43
Renewals	3,565	2,398
Late Renewals	432	330

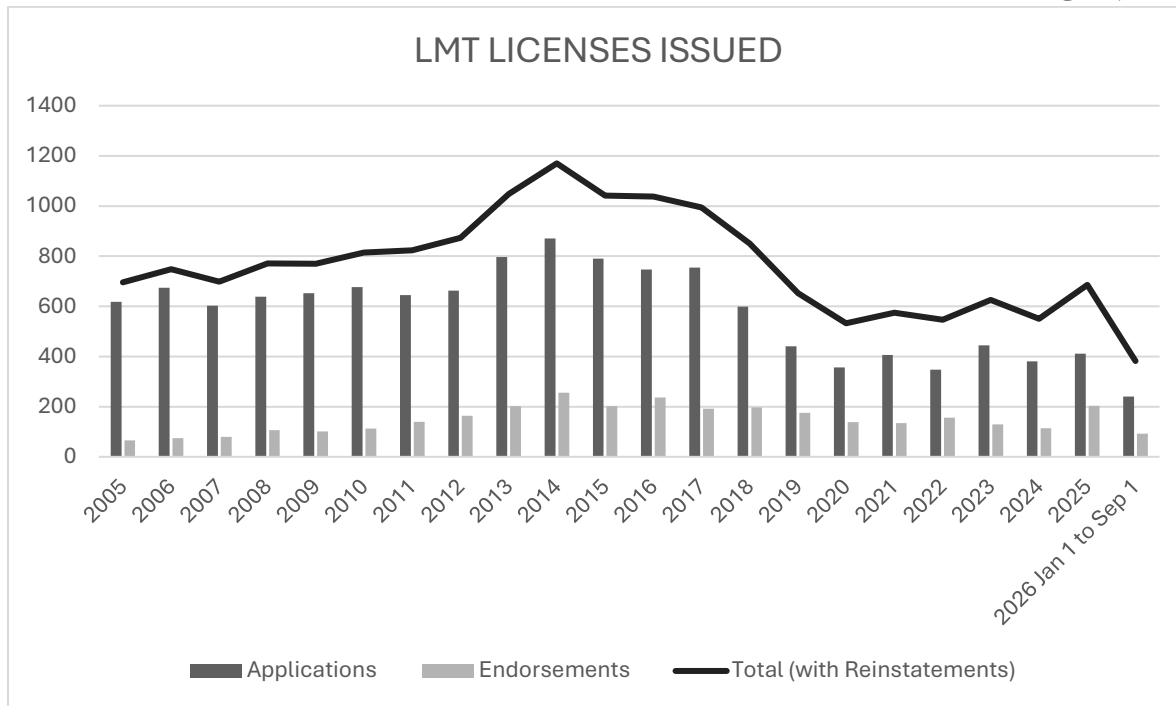
STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Total number of massage therapists **currently active** in Virginia as of **September 1, 2026:**

8,241

Virginia Department of Health Professions 2022-2024 (July 1 to June 30) Biennial Report

2026	Pending
2024	8,287
2022	8,597
2020	8,727
2018	7,978
2016	7,104
2014	6,215



Number of Massage Licenses Issued (Initial Applicants, Endorsements, and Reinstatements + Reinstatements after Discipline¹ [see **NOTES**])

Calendar Year	Application	Endorsement	Reinstatements	Total
2026 (Jan 1-Sep 1)	240²	92²	50²	382²
2025 (Jan 1- Sep 30)	328	166	56	550
2024 (Jan 1- Dec 31)	380	114³	56	550
2023 (Jan 1- Dec 31)	445	129	51	625
2022 (Jan 1- Dec 31)	347	156	44	547
2021 (Jan 1- Dec 31)	406	135	34	575
2020 (Jan 1- Dec 31)	356	138	39	533
2019 (Jan 1- Dec 31)	441	175	36	652
2018 (Jan 1- Dec 31)	599	197	54	850
2017 (Jan 1- Dec 31)	755	192	47	994
2016 (Jan 1- Dec 31)	747	237	54	1,038
2015 (Jan 1- Dec 31)	790	202	49	1,041
2014 (Jan 1 -Dec 31)	870	256	44	1,170
2013 (Jan 1- Dec 31)	796	202	47	1,048
2012 (Jan 1- Dec 31)	663	164	46	873
2011 (Jan 1- Dec 31)	645	139	39	823
2010 (Jan 1- Dec 31)	677	113	25	815
2009 (Jan 1- Dec 31)	653	101	16	770
2008 (Jan 1- Dec 31)	638	106	27	771
2007 (Jan 1- Dec 31)	603	80	15	698
2006 (Jan 1- Dec 31)	674	74	13	748
2005 (Jan 1- Dec 31)	618	65	13	696

NOTES:

1. The number of Reinstatements After Discipline was minimal and usually only one or two of the total reinstatements for the year, so these numbers were added into Reinstatements.
2. The totals are subject to change because they only reflect numbers through August 2026 of CY 2026.
3. This number includes one licensee by endorsement who obtained licensure because of military orders.

LICENSING CONSIDERATIONS:

- ☞ MBLEx was accepted as the exam for certification in Virginia as of July 1, 2013.
- ☞ April 2014 is when the Virginia Board of Nursing started accepting online applications for licensure in massage therapy.
- ☞ Implementation of Licensure for Massage Therapist effective January 1, 2017 (*from Certified Massage Therapist-CMT to Licensed Massage Therapist-LMT*)
- ☞ Pursuant to Virginia Code 54.1-3005.1, the Virginia Board of Nursing incorporated both state and federal criminal background checks as part of the application process for massage therapist effective January 1, 2017. This requirement applied to applicants by initial application, endorsement, and reinstatement.
- ☞ Effective April 16, 2020, the Board of Nursing no longer provides official verification for licensees wishing to obtain out-of-state licensure. Licenses are directed to License Lookup.
- ☞ Effective September 30, 2020, pursuant to Virginia Code 54.1-3029, the Virginia Board of Nursing clarified the requirement for applicants to have completed a massage therapy program that is at least 500 hours and requires a Board-approved English-proficiency exam for applicants educated outside of the United States.
- ☞ On March 21, 2025, the Virginia General Assembly passed the Virginia Acts of Assembly, 2025 Session, Chapter 274, Interstate Massage Compact. It will be designated in the Code of Virginia as § 54.1-3029.2. Interstate Massage Compact.
- ☞ Pursuant to Chapter 274 of the 2025 General Assembly submitted a Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA), *Governing the Licensure of Massage Therapists* (18 VAC 90-50) to facilitate participation in the Massage Therapy Compact.
 - See attached *Public Guide to the Standard Regulatory Process*.

Public Guide to the Standard Regulatory Process

Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA)

Agency submits NOIRA on Town Hall for executive branch review by the Department of Planning and Budget (DPB), Cabinet Secretary, and Governor.

NOIRA is published in the *Virginia Register of Regulations (Register)* which begins a 30-day public comment period including a public comment forum on the Town Hall.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

A regulatory stage first becomes visible on Town Hall at the point it is submitted to the OAG or DPB for review.

An email notification is sent to Town Hall registered public users five days before a regulatory stage is published in the *Virginia Register of Regulations*, the official publication of legal record for regulations in Virginia.

On the date a stage is published in the *Register*, a public comment forum opens on the Town Hall.

Sources: Code of Virginia §§ 2.2-4006 through 2.2-4017 and Executive Order 17 (2026)

Proposed stage

Agency considers public comment and approves proposed regulation.

Agency submits proposed stage on Town Hall for executive branch review by the Office of the Attorney General (OAG), DPB, Cabinet Secretary, and Governor.

Proposed regulation is published in the *Register* which begins a 60-day public comment period including a public comment forum on the Town Hall.

Final stage

Agency considers public comment and adopts final regulation.

Executive branch review by OAG (sometimes), DPB, Cabinet Secretary, and Governor.

Final regulation is published in the *Register*.
30-day final adoption period begins

Regulation becomes effective

(unless it is suspended or 25+ people request an additional public comment period).

For more information,
visit the
Virginia Regulatory Town Hall
at
townhall.virginia.gov





COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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Licensed Massage Therapist	10/01/2024 to 09/30/2025	10/01/2025 to 08/31/2026
01 Inability to Safely Practice		1
03 Abuse/Abandonment/Neglect	12	11
05 Std of Care, Diagnosis/Treatment		2
07 Std of Care, Malpractice Reports		
08 Std of Care, Exceeding Scope	1	4
10 Inappropriate Relationship	20	7
11 Unlicensed Activity	39	13
13 Fraud, Patient Care		3
14 Action by Another Bd, Patient Care	2	
50 Criminal Activity	19	5
51 HPMP		
53 Fraud, Non-Patient Care	6	27
54 Business Practice Issues	6	7
56 Compliance	1	3
58 Confidentiality Breach	1	
59 Continuing Competency Req Not Met	1	
62 Action by Another BD, NPC		
63 Reinstatement	2	5
64 Eligibility	6	10
99 HIPDB	42	11
Total	160	109

2013 – The NPDB-HIPDB Merges into One Data Bank—the NPDB

- On May 6, 2013, the HIPDB merged into the NPDB. Information previously collected and disclosed through the HIPDB is now collected and disclosed through the NPDB.
- The sunset of ITP begins September 30 whereby ITP no longer accepts reports.

Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB)
2026 Executive Summit Report
April 22 – April 24, 2026
Providence Rhode Island

Christina Bargdill, Deputy Executive Director, attended the 2026 FSMTB Executive Summit. The MBE Summit is designed for member Board executives to come together and discuss issues of mutual concern, and share experiences and best practices that may benefit massage therapy regulators. The central theme of the 2026 Executive Summit was strengthening regulation, trust, and collaboration in the massage therapy profession.

Across the agenda, the sessions focused on:

- **Building public trust** through better communication and community engagement
- **Combating misinformation** and helping boards respond confidently and transparently
- **Modernizing regulatory work** with new technology and tools that support board operations
- **Improving consistency in school oversight** through shared standards and collaborative problem-solving
- **Strengthening investigations and enforcement** through best practices and inter-state collaboration
- **Preparing boards to respond to pressures for deregulation pressures** with strong, evidence-based arguments and strategies to best serve the public and the profession
- **Sharing successes and challenges** to build community and learn from one another

Notable takeaways from the meeting included:

- The Interstate Massage Therapy Compact (IMpact) is designed to make it easier for licensed massage therapists to practice across state lines through multistate licensure. Five states (Arkansas, Montana, Nevada, Ohio and Virginia) have adopted the IMpact model language and are participating in the compact. To move the compact forward, a total of seven states must enact the model language to participate in the compact. Several states including Virginia had bills introduced in the 2026 General Assembly session that would have amended the original compact language including specific aspects of the proposed compact. This would have required statutory updates for the five states that have adopted the initial compact framework. All the bills introduced in the initial 2026 session failed, and the existing compact language remains in place. With five states currently participating, two more states must adopt the compact to establish the compact commission. There are currently six additional states that have active legislation under consideration to adopt the original IMpact framework.
- The Massage Therapy Licensing Database (MTLD) is a comprehensive, national database of licensed massage therapists that will facilitate information sharing between state massage regulatory boards and agencies. FSMTB has partnered with Synaptic Era to modernize the technology and support member states in sharing information through MTLD to improve efficiency and effectiveness in licensure. The Virginia Board of

Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB)

2026 Executive Summit Report

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Nursing has previously entered into a data sharing agreement to participate in MTLTD.

Once the current technological updates are completed, the information technology (IT) specialists from FSMTB will work with the IT here at DHP to identify data sharing needs and to establish protocols.

- Entry-Level Analysis Project (ELAP) is a research project initiated by the Coalition of National Massage Therapy Organizations in March of 2012.
 - The organizations that made up the coalition include the Alliance for Massage Therapy Education (AFMTE), American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA), Associated Bodywork & Massage Professionals (ABMP), Commission on Massage Therapy Accreditation (COMTA), Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB), Massage Therapy Foundation (MTF), and the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage & Bodywork (NCBTMB)
 - The project goals were to define knowledge and skills components of entry-level education and to recommend the minimum number of hours schools should teach to prepare graduates for safe and competent massage practice.
 - The recommended minimum hours schools should teach graduates was found to be 625 hours.
 - Current state regulatory requirements for minimum education hours for licensures vary nationwide from 500 hours to 1000 hours.
 - Nationwide 84% of approved schools teach at or above the 625-hour mark.
 - Code of Virginia requires an applicant to have successfully completed 500 hours of training in an approved massage therapy program.
- A discussion related to school closures and Massage and Bodywork Licensing Examination (MBLEX) applications revealed a significant impact on the licensing of massage therapists nationwide. More than 1100 people were affected nationwide by school closures by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR). These students were given options to retake the MBLEX before the invalidation results were reported to licensing Boards. There are more schools in other jurisdictions that are under review and may have a similar result.