

STATE OF WISCONSIN
MASSAGE THERAPY AND BODYWORK THERAPY AFFILIATED CREDENTIALING
BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF RULEMAKING	:	ORDER OF THE
PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE	:	MASSAGE THERAPY AND BODYWORK
MASSAGE THERAPY AND BODYWORK	:	THERAPY AFFILIATED CREDENTIALING
THERAPY AFFILIATED	:	BOARD ADOPTING RULES
CREDENTIALING BOARD	:	(CLEARINGHOUSE RULE 24-054)

ORDER

An order of the Massage Therapy and Bodywork Therapy Affiliated Credentialing Board to amend MTBT 6.02 (1) (intro.) and (d), and (3) (a) and (b), and to create MTBT 6.02 (6), relating to temporary licenses.

Analysis prepared by the Department of Safety and Professional Services.

ANALYSIS

Statutes interpreted: Section 460.08, Stats.

Statutory authority: Sections 15.085 (5) (b), 460.04 (2) (f), 460.08, Stats.

Explanation of agency authority:

s. 15.085 (5) (b), stats. states that “[each affiliated credentialing board] shall promulgate rules for its own guidance and for the guidance of the trader or profession to which it pertains, and define and enforce professional conduct and unethical practices not inconsistent with the law relating to the particular trade or profession.”

s. 460.04 (2) (f), stats. states that “[the affiliated credentialing board shall promulgate rules that establish] requirements to be satisfied by a person seeking a temporary license under s. 460.08. The rules promulgated under this subsection shall require the person to be a graduate of a massage therapy or bodywork therapy school or program and may require the holder of a temporary license to make disclosures to clients and to practice under the supervision of a massage therapist or bodywork therapist licensed under this chapter.”

s. 460.08, stats. states that “The affiliated credentialing board may grant a temporary license for a period not to exceed 6 months to an applicant who satisfies the requirements established in the rules under s. 460.04 (2) (f). A temporary license may not be renewed.”

Related statute or rule: None.

Plain language analysis:

The proposed rule revises chapter MTBT 6 to align with current practice in the profession in the area of temporary licensure. This was achieved through amending temporary licensure requirements relating to the examination under s. 460.06, Stats., to cover the typical pathway of an applicant more accurately as they move from temporary to permanent licensure. These changes include amendments to MTBT 6.02 (1) and (3) regarding the exam and the ability of a licensee to receive more than one temporary license. These updates allow for an applicant to practice while they are waiting to take their examination under s. 460.06, Stats., which provides a mechanism for oversight and supervision of applicants' practice while their applications are still pending. Other amendments include creating a provision under MTBT 6.02 (6) that allows the board to review and take action on any temporary licensee who fails the required examination under s. 460.06, Stats if necessary.

Summary of, and comparison with, existing or proposed federal regulation: None.

Comparison with rules in adjacent states:**Illinois:**

The Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation is responsible for the licensure and regulation of the practice of massage therapy in Illinois, with input from the Illinois Massage Licensing Board. The Illinois Department is also responsible for the promulgation of rules to implement certain sections of the Illinois Massage Therapy Practice Act. This Act contains requirements for applications, licensure, and discipline for massage therapists [225 Illinois Compiled Statutes ch. 57]. Illinois does not issue temporary licenses to practice massage therapy.

Iowa:

The Iowa Board of Massage Therapy is responsible for the licensure and regulation of the practice of massage therapy in Iowa. Chapter 152C of the Iowa Code includes statutory requirements for licensure, composition and powers of the Iowa Board, and discipline for massage therapists [Iowa Code ch. 152C]. The Iowa Administrative Code details rules relating to the practice of massage therapy, including requirements for temporary licensure. In Iowa, an individual who is licensed to practice massage therapy in another jurisdiction, but is unable to meet the requirements of licensure by endorsement is eligible for a temporary license. Such a temporary license is valid for up to one year and is not renewable. Any application for a temporary license must include a plan for meeting the requirements for regular licensure within one year. [645 Iowa Administrative Code ch. 131 s. 131.6].

Michigan:

The Michigan Board of Massage Therapy is responsible for the licensure and regulation of massage therapy practice in Michigan. Act 368 Article 15 Part 179A of the Michigan Compiled Laws includes the regulations for massage therapy in Michigan, among several other occupations. Some of the requirements in this part include those for licensure, renewal, and duties of the Michigan Board. [Michigan Compiled Laws ss. 333.17951-333.1769]. Michigan does not issue temporary licenses to practice massage therapy.

Minnesota:

The Minnesota Department of Health's Office of Unlicensed Complementary and Alternative Health Care Practice (OCAP) investigates complaints and takes enforcement actions against massage therapists for violations of prohibited conduct. However, neither OCAP nor any other statewide agency or board oversees the licensing of massage therapists [Minnesota Statutes Chapter 146A].

Summary of factual data and analytical methodologies:

The proposed rules were developed by reviewing the provisions of MTBT 6 and obtaining input and feedback from the Massage Therapy and Bodywork Therapy Affiliated Credentialing Board.

Analysis and supporting documents used to determine effect on small business or in preparation of economic impact analysis:

The proposed rules were posted for a period of 14 days to solicit public comment on economic impact, including how the proposed rules may affect businesses, local government units, and individuals. No comments were received.

Effect on small business:

These rules do not have an economic impact on small businesses, as defined in s. 227.114 (1), Stats. The Department's Regulatory Review Coordinator, Jennifer Garrett, may be contacted by calling (608) 266-2112.

Agency contact person:

Nilajah Hardin, Administrative Rules Coordinator, Department of Safety and Professional Services, Division of Policy Development, P.O. Box 8366, Madison, Wisconsin 53708-8366; email at DSPSAdminRules@wisconsin.gov.

TEXT OF RULE

SECTION 1. MTBT 6.02 (1) (intro.) and (d), and (3) (a) and (b) are amended to read:

MTBT 6.02 (1) (intro.) The board may issue a temporary license to an applicant to practice massage therapy and bodywork therapy who meets the criteria under s. 460.05, Stats., other than passing the examination under s. 460.05 (1) (f), Stats., and who has completed all of the following:

(1) (d) Has ~~not previously failed~~ taken an examination required under s. 460.06, Stats., ~~unless the applicant has subsequently passed the failed examination.~~

(3) (a) A temporary license expires 6 months after the date of issuance or when the department provides notice that the temporary licensee has ~~failed or~~ passed the examination required by s. 460.06, Stats., whichever is first.

(3) (b) No person shall be issued more than one temporary license ~~in any 365-day period.~~

SECTION 2. MTBT 6.02 (6) is created to read:

MTBT 6.02 (6) The board may review a temporary licensee who fails to pass the examination under s. 460.06, Stats., to determine whether they are competent to continue practicing under their temporary license or if a revocation of the credential is necessary for the safety and welfare of the public. The determination of whether a temporary license is revoked shall be entirely within the discretion of the board.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. The rules adopted in this order shall take effect on the first day of the month following publication in the Wisconsin Administrative Register, pursuant to s. 227.22 (2) (intro.), Stats.

(END OF TEXT OF RULE)

Dated 8/8/2025

Agency



Chairperson
Massage Therapy and Bodywork Therapy
Affiliated Credentialing Board