



California
<https://www.camtc.org>

Contact Information

California Massage Therapy Council
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Other important contacts: <https://www.camtc.org/ContactUs.aspx>

If you are not a certificate holder or applicant, you may sign up for alerts and updates: <https://search.camtc.org/cgi-shl/TWServer.exe?Run:ADDCAMTC>

California has statewide voluntary certification for massage. The definition of massage is very broad. There is no specific Structural Integration exemption. The current statute is up for Sunset Review to determine whether to renew it. The wording of the current statute has left practitioners fielding multiple regulations at the local level (county and municipality).

CAMTC's FAQ page breaks down some of the more complex issues of the law and its applications. Read this as a starting point: <https://www.camtc.org/Faq.aspx>

Law and Regulation

https://www.camtc.org/FormDownloads/ca_bp_code_4600_4620.pdf

The statute

The Massage Therapy Act - Section 460, 4600-4621 of Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code and Section 51034 of the Government Code, relating to healing arts.

4600. This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the Massage Therapy Act. Whenever a reference is made to the Massage Therapy Act by any statute, it shall be construed to refer to this chapter.

4600.5. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature that this act enable consumers and local governments to more easily identify certified massage professionals, provide for consistent statewide certification and oversight of massage professionals, ensure that schools approved by the council that are teaching massage provide a high level of training, assist local governments and law enforcement in meeting their duty to maintain the highest standards of conduct in massage establishments by vetting and disciplining certificate holders, provide for a self-funded nonprofit oversight body to certify massage professionals, and ensure full compliance with, and execution of, the requirements of this act.

(b) It is the intent of the Legislature that broad control over land use in regulating massage establishments be vested in local governments so that they may manage those establishments

in the best interests of the individual community, and that the requirements and practice of the profession of massage therapy remain a matter of statewide concern, regulation, and oversight.

(c) It is the intent of the Legislature that local governments impose and enforce only reasonable and necessary fees and regulations, in keeping with the requirements of existing law and being mindful of the need to protect legitimate business owners and massage professionals, particularly sole providers, during the transition period after this act becomes law and thereafter for the sake of developing a healthy and vibrant local economy.

(d) It is the intent of the Legislature that local governments, law enforcement, nonprofit stakeholders, the massage industry, and massage professionals work together going forward to improve communication and share information to further increase the value of statewide certification, to collaborate in the implementation of this act, and to develop a model ordinance reflecting best practices in massage regulation for cities and counties to adopt that will respect local control, patient privacy, and the dignity of the profession of massage therapy.

4601. As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(e) "Massage" means the scientific manipulation of the soft tissues. For purposes of this chapter, the terms "massage" and "bodywork" shall have the same meaning.

4604. (a) In order to obtain certification as a massage therapist, an applicant shall submit a written application and provide the council with satisfactory evidence that he or she meets all of the following requirements:

(3) The applicant has passed a massage and bodywork competency assessment examination that meets generally recognized psychometric principles and standards and that is approved by the council. The successful completion of this examination may have been accomplished before the date the council is authorized by this chapter to begin issuing certificates.

Board of Directors

<https://www.camtc.org/Board.aspx>

Meetings and Minutes

<https://www.camtc.org/Meetings.aspx>