

Update from the IASI Law and Regulations Committee: April 26, 2016

The role of IASI's L&R Committee: We are a small, all volunteer committee. We take time from our own practices to help support our members to establish SI as a profession. Sometimes there isn't much call for our help. And sometimes, like the last few months, it is nearly a full time job. Last December I asked for someone from each state to step forward to help spearhead happenings in your state. Unfortunately, I did this right before the holidays and let the ball drop for some of you. We need you. Seriously.

You could be a member of the L&R Committee, or you could be the IASI point person in your state with a list of practitioners you can keep up to date and call on should the need arise. This came in very handy in Colorado recently.

One thing everyone can do is set Google Alerts for your city, county, and state for potential laws or rules that may affect your practice; then, inform others in your state, and inform IASI L&R, too, if anything comes up that would affect SI. Bigger legislative trends sometimes start at the city or county level. Some alerts that may work for you are "massage law (your city, e.g., "Atlanta")", "massage law (your county, e.g., "Fulton county")", "massage law (your state, e.g., "Georgia")", ditto for "massage regulation (city, county, state)", "massage ordinance (city, county, state)", "massage zoning (city, county, state)". You can try structural integration, manual therapy, or any other term you think might touch on your practice in your location. It could vary place to place.

States in play update:

Colorado: Colorado exempts SI from regulation and recognizes it as different from massage; it does regulate massage therapy. HB 16-1320 has been under consideration and was put forth as an anti-human trafficking and prostitution bill. Originally this bill sought to remove all statutory exemptions to massage licensing and put them under the regulatory control of DORA (the agency that licenses various professions.) IASI, RISI, CrestoneSI, and several individual practitioners have spoken out against removing our exemption from statute. We have attended legislative and agency hearings (in person or virtually), as well as making phone calls and writing letters. On April 25, 2016, the Senate Judiciary Committee held a two hour hearing on the bill and passed 3 new amendments to it. We have not seen the specific wording of the amendments, but it was stated on the record that one of the amendments included restoring the statutory exemptions. We are not out of the woodwork until the bill becomes law or fails, and someone could push through language at any point that puts an end date on the statutory exemptions, but so far, this looks like good news.

California: California has statewide voluntary certification for massage; "massage" and "bodywork" are defined as the same thing. Their Massage Therapy Act (AB1147) is up for Sunset Review, which means it will expire on December 31, 2016, if not reinstated. In 2015, with the return of land use authority and local ordinance controls to regulate professional massage therapy, approximately 50 cities in California have passed moratoriums on opening new massage therapy businesses "to give them time to review and amend massage ordinances". Cities have established expensive and discriminatory establishment and permit fees, effectively making it too expensive to open or operate a massage business. Since January 1, 2015, health service businesses are being subjected to an inconsistent, harmful local ordinances that impose conditional use permit requirements, large application and establishment fees, unaffordable delays in establishing a business,

discriminatory zoning and spacing requirements, and double regulation in direct contradiction of the terms of the Massage Therapy Act.

Oklahoma: Oklahoma passed a law through both houses this month regulating massage under the Board of Cosmetology and Barbering. IASI lobbied for specific exemption language for SI, but did not get the language we wanted. The definition of massage in the law is broad and could potentially wrap SI into massage regulation. The exemption language in the law can be read on page 6 at this link:

http://webserver1.lsb.state.ok.us/cf_pdf/2015-16%20COMMITTEE%20SUBS/HCSS/SB687%20SUBREC.PDF.

It is possible that SI and not just Rolf Movement are included here, but that is for an Oklahoma attorney to argue should the case arise. It is IASI's understanding that governor still has to sign the bill into law, but there was overwhelming support in both houses, so that it probably a given.

Washington: Washington regulates Structural Integration as massage. Recently, the Washington State Massage Board submitted a request to the Office of the Code Reviser asking that their proposed rules for massage regulation be adopted into the administrative rules. These changes included adding a massage only practical exam for all new licensees and accepting certain written exams for licensees (all of which were strictly massage based). We held a letter-writing campaign asking the DOH to deny the request and detailing how it was harmful to our profession.

Minnesota: Minnesota currently does not regulate Structural Integration, massage, somatic practices, et al. It is considering a bill allowing for voluntary certification of massage therapists. The group pressing for the bill (ALMT) did not include exclusion or appropriate regulatory language for Structural Integration due to the complexity of the bill as it was and the fact that it was for *voluntary* certification. We are not able to change the language because the bill has already been jacketed and any changes would not be allowed unless they were to resubmit the bill, which they're not going to do now that it's in committee. The bill has to pass before a certain date in May if it is to pass at all during this legislative session. It still has a way to go.