



Resolution 1

Title of Resolution: Formation of a FSMTB Task Force to review the numerical versus pass/fail score reporting system for massage therapy candidates for licensure

Member Board/Committee Proposing Resolution: Georgia Board of Massage Therapy

WHEREAS the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy is aware that massage therapy education programs in the state of Georgia and other states are required to provide a plan which demonstrates the effectiveness of their institution and its programs, to include exam pass rates and exam scores.

WHEREAS massage therapy education programs must provide objective measures of student performance on external examinations.

WHEREAS pass rates and exam scores are necessary for massage therapy education programs to continuously evaluate their curricular offerings and requirements in order to ensure that the students acquire the competencies the program purports to teach.

WHEREAS such measures are often needed and/or required by the Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission of the U.S. Department of Education, like organizations within other states and accrediting bodies.

WHEREAS the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy supports all massage therapy education programs in their pursuit of offering an exemplary education that will ensure that each student develops the knowledge, skills, and attitude appropriate in each category to score well on the MBLEx.

WHEREAS the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy has grave concerns about the negative impact that the term “fail” may have on students as research has shown that many students equate failure to an unsuccessful life, feelings of unworthiness, and even depression as well as a decrease in the acquisition of knowledge in preparation for retaking the exam.

WHEREAS the member boards were not provided any statistical data or information which suggests that a numerical hierarchy exists that subjects a licensed massage therapists and/or

MBLEx candidates to undue and unfounded competition nor where the member boards offered an opportunity to vote on this change.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the statements noted above are hereby approved, ratified and adopted by the members of the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy.

RESOLVED that historically scores have provided an important impetus for students to review and solidify their knowledge as it relates to massage therapy and has not been misleading to the students or the schools.

RESOLVED that the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy requests that the FSMTB Board of Directors rescind the decision to implement the pass/fail system immediately pending a vote by the member boards and associate members on the matter;

RESOLVED that the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy requests that the member boards and associate members be provided an opportunity to review the statistical data, within a designated timeframe, that FSMTB used to come to the conclusion that numerical scores are not beneficial, adequate or necessary.

RESOLVED the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy proposes that FSMTB develop a task force to conduct a survey of member boards and state or board approved massage therapy education programs concerning numerical versus pass/fail scoring before such a change is made, particularly since there is research which supports that students in other professions prefer ongoing numerical scoring.

RESOLVED that massage therapy education programs provide FSMTB necessary information for candidates to take the exam and are equally vested in the success of each candidate, FSMTB should be willing to make numerical scores reports available to member boards to distribute to board or state approved massage therapy education programs upon request or to directly to the board or state approved massage therapy education programs for a nominal fee upon request.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN: The FSMTB Task Force will develop a survey to distribute electronically to each member board or agency as well as to each board or state approved school. The results of the surveys will be analyzed by the Task Force who can present the findings to the Board of Directors to disseminate to the member boards and agencies within an In Touch Newsletter or as a separate document.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The Georgia Board of Massage Therapy propose that the Task Force be developed as soon as possible but no later than December 1, 2018 with the work product of the Task Force distributed to all stakeholders prior to June 2019. The results of the survey to be presented to the membership prior to the annual meeting in 2019 and the matter put to a vote before the membership during the annual meeting 2019.

Upon motion duly made by Jennifer Clay, LMT seconded by Cindy King, LMT and unanimously carried, said resolution is to be forwarded to FSMTB for consideration.

Board Members

Craig Knowles, LMT

Chair

Jennifer Clay, LMT

Vice Chair

Board Director

Adrienne Price, RN, BA, MSN

Executive Director

Board Attorney

Wylencia Monroe, Esq.

Sr. Assistant Attorney General