
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anna Caballero, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1504 (Berman) - California Massage Therapy Council

Version: July 16, 2025

Policy Vote: B., P. & E.D. 7 - 0, PUB. S. 5
- 0

Urgency: No

Mandate: No

Hearing Date: August 18, 2025

Consultant: Janelle Miyashiro

Bill Summary: AB 1504 is the sunset bill for the California Massage Therapy Council (CAMTC or Council) and extends the operation of CAMTC until January 1, 2030 as well as makes changes recommended during the joint sunset review of the Council.

Fiscal Impact: The Background Paper for the CAMTC notes the condition of the Council's fund over the past four fiscal years:

	2021	2022	2023	2024
Beginning Balance	\$2,041,000	\$2,556,000	\$1,856,000	\$3,256,000
Revenue	\$6,276,000	\$5,631,000	\$7,981,000	\$7,920,000
Expenditures	\$5,758,000	\$6,331,000	\$6,581,000	\$7,076,000
Fund Balance	\$2,556,000	\$1,856,000	\$3,256,000	\$4,099,000
Months in Reserve	5.3	3.5	5.9	7

The Council is a nongovernmental, nonprofit organization entirely funded through fees and is not part of the state budget.

Although CAMTC oversees a voluntary certificate program, many localities treat the certificate as a de-facto license for purposes of practicing the profession. As a result, the value of the certificate as a license has resulted and may continue to result in civil suits against the CAMTC due to its approval and revocation actions. There may be unknown cost pressures to the state funded trial court system to adjudicate any civil cases filed as a result of CAMTC's continued operations (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund). The fiscal impact to the courts will depend on many unknowns, including the number of cases filed and the factors unique to each case. An eight-hour court day costs approximately \$10,500 in staff in workload. If court days exceed 10, costs to the trial courts could reach hundreds of thousands of dollars. While the courts are not funded on a workload basis, an increase in workload could result in delayed court services and would put pressure on the General Fund to fund additional staff and resources and to increase the amount appropriated to backfill for trial court operations.

Background: In March 2025, the Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee and the Assembly Committee on Business and Professions (Committees) began their comprehensive sunset review oversight of ten regulatory entities, including the Council. The Committees conducted three oversight hearings. This bill and the accompanying sunset bills are intended to implement legislative changes as recommended by staff of the Committees, and which are reflected in the

Background Papers prepared by Committee staff for each agency and program reviewed this year.

Proposed Law:

- Extends the operations of the CAMTC until January 1, 2030.
- Limits the total annual salary for any individual employed or contracted by the CAMTC, as specified.
- Removes a board member appointed by the Office of the Chancellor of Community Colleges, specifies the one member appointed by the California Association of Private Postsecondary Schools be a representative of an approved massage school, and adds an additional certified massage therapist (CMT) or certified massage practitioner board member.
- Requires the CAMTC to provide a meaningful opportunity for public participation in the adoption, amendment, or repeal of any policies, procedures, rules, or bylaws that substantially impact the rights, benefits, privileges, duties, obligations, or responsibilities of individuals or entities subject to certification or approval by the CAMTC including but not limited to actions by the CAMTC to increase fees, impose additional requirements for certification or approval or substantively modify the disciplinary process.
- Requires CAMTC, to the extent possible, make the records of the council available for public inspection.
- States that any applicant who meets all the other requirements for certification and who received instruction at an approved school that was not under formal investigation at the time at which the applicant began instruction but was subsequently placed under investigation by the CAMTC, must have the opportunity for an educational hearing. Any interview or hearing must be completed no later than six months from the date the application was submitted or the student completed the instruction.
- Requires the CAMTC to issue a certificate to any applicant who successfully passes the interview or hearing described above, provided that the school at which the applicant completed the instruction was considered in good standing according to the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (BPPE) at the time the applicant passed the interview or hearing.
- Beginning January 1, 2026, requires an approved massage school, upon each student's completion of curriculum, to provide notice to the student that a massage and bodywork competency assessment examination is not a requirement for certification but may be required for licensure or certification as a massage therapist in any other state.
- Deletes the requirement that a female patient obtain a referral from a health care practitioner to receive a breast massage.

- Authorizes CAMTC to take action when the time for appeal has elapsed, the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal, or an order granting probation is made suspending the imposition of sentence.
- Deletes clothing specific prohibitions and maintains the CAMTC's authority to determine unprofessional conduct, as specified.
- Adds being determined to be a threat to public safety based on mental health reasons by a medical or mental health professional, or rendered a finding of not guilty in a criminal proceeding by reason of insanity as grounds for the CAMTC to deny an application or impose discipline on a certificate holder.
- Permits an applicant or certificate holder to appeal a final decision by the CAMTC to deny or revoke a certificate.
- Adds any private entity authorized in the Business and Profession Code to approve schools or educational programs for purposes of certification.
- States codified legislative intent to extend the council's powers and duties through the sunset review process, and that both state and local regulation of massage therapy reflect the recognized status of certified massage professionals as health care providers.

Related Legislation: SB 774 (Ashby, 2025) is the Department of Real Estate and Bureau of Real Estate Appraisers sunset bill. SB 774 is pending in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

SB 775 (Ashby, 2025) is the Board of Psychology and Board of Behavioral Sciences sunset bill. SB 775 is pending in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

SB 776 (Ashby, 2025) is the Board of Optometry sunset bill. SB 776 is pending in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 1501 (Berman, 2025) is the Physician Assistant Board and Podiatric Medical Board of California sunset bill. AB 1501 is pending in this committee.

AB 1502 (Berman, 2025) is the California Veterinary Medical Board sunset bill. AB 1502 is pending in this committee.

AB 1503 (Berman, 2025) is the California State Board of Pharmacy sunset bill. AB 1503 is pending in this committee.

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