

H.588 OPR Bill

Hercules Liotard, Vermont Chapter of the American Massage Therapy Association House Ways and Means Committee – February 26, 2026

My name is Hercules Liotard and I am massage therapist, a massage therapy business owner, and a member of the Vermont chapter of the American Massage Therapy Association.

Last year, I testified on fees related to individual massage therapists – specifically that OPR is charging us fees that are more appropriate for “licensure,” while OPR is choosing to only “register” massage therapists.

H.588 creates a new regulation for massage therapy establishments and charges an additional fee for establishments (the same fee as for licensure). The individual massage therapist fees continue to be onerous and H.588 creates duplication for small businesses.

Under H.588, any business that offers massage such as a spa, salon, doctor’s office, chiropractors office, etc. will be paying that fee. A larger business establishment may be able to compensate for that fee. However, H.588 does not take into account the burden on small businesses. Under H.588, to be considered a massage establishment, the business would employ two or more massage therapists.

As an example, my wife and I are registered massage therapists here in Vermont. We have to each register every two years at the current registration price of \$275 (combined \$550). We have our own massage practice and have space we work out of which is our establishment. With the now proposed fee being present in H.588, establishments will be required to pay \$275 as well. This is unfair for small businesses, especially those owned by massage therapists. Under H.588, a larger establishment will only be paying a one-time fee of \$275 while smaller establishments like ours will be paying 3 fees in actuality. Our massage registration fee and the new establishment fee will have us paying \$825 combined. That is a hefty combination of fees, for any small business massage establishment – and... especially in light of the fact that we are not even licensed.

We would ask that your committee consider an amendment to H.588 related to a fee exemption for massage therapist-owned small businesses, where the massage therapist owner is already paying a fee.