



## ALABAMA BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY

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### MINUTES Special/Called Board Meeting June 18, 2018

The Alabama Board of Massage Therapy met on Monday, June 18, 2018, at the Board Office located at 2777 Zelda Road, Montgomery, Alabama, to oppose the Sunset Committee's consideration to sunset the Board. The following Board members were in attendance: Mr. Lemar Storey (Chair), Mr. Lance Gilliland (Vice Chair), Mr. Willie DeVold (member), Mr. Foad Araiinejad (member), Ms. Gwen Motley (member) and Mr. Michael Stephens (member). Also in attendance were Keith Warren (Executive Director), Mr. Matt Bledsoe (Legal Counsel), Mr. Mike James (Investigator/Inspector), Jennifer Love (Legal Assistant) and Ms. Renee' Reames (Executive Secretary to Mr. Warren, and serving as recording secretary). Guests were also in attendance at this special/called Board meeting. A quorum of the members was present and the meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Mr. Storey, Board Chairman.

Public notice of this special/called meeting was submitted to the Secretary of State [www.sos.alabama.gov](http://www.sos.alabama.gov) in accordance with the requirements of the Alabama Open Meetings Act and published on the Board's web site at [www.almtbd.alabama.gov](http://www.almtbd.alabama.gov).

Mr. Warren presented information about the purpose of the meeting to oppose the Sunset Committee's consideration to sunset the Massage Therapy Board. He distributed information containing national statistics and the Board's licensee activities (reports available for viewing in the Board's Official Book of Minutes). He also reported that another interested party, separate from the activities of the Board, had begun a petition in opposition to sunset. He explained that the Sunset Committee would be meeting on June 20 & 21, 2018, and he recommended that the Board present to them a letter from the Board opposing sunset, along with statistical data and letters of support. He reported that he would prepare and disseminate on the Board's website an update following the Sunset Committee meetings. He indicated that the Sunset Committee would be making a recommendation to the Legislature, for approval during the 2019 Legislative Session, about the status of the Board.

The Board reviewed a draft letter to the Sunset Committee prepared by the Executive Director. The Board discussed the Alabama Policy Institute advocating for deregulation of some professional licensure boards. Also discussed was the role of the Board to protect the public, along with aspects of the new human trafficking law, which amended the Board's statute. The Board reviewed the statistical information presented by the Executive Director on licensure, complaints, school enrollment and examination results, national statistics and the Board's investigator's involvement in human trafficking task forces. Mr. James, Board investigator, explained that human trafficking activities and prostitution are advertised under

the guise of massage therapy attempting to appear legitimate businesses. Following a further review of the draft letter to the Sunset Committee, the Board recommended some additions. An emphasis on education and training hours required in Alabama in comparison with other states was added to the letter.

A motion to approve this letter was made by Ms. Motely and seconded by Mr. Araiinejad. The Board unanimously approved this notion.

Chairman Storey announced that the next meeting of the Board was scheduled for July 13, 2018.

There being no further business, Ms. Motely made the motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stephens and unanimously approved by the Board. Mr. Storey adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lemar Storey  
*Chair*

Keith E. Warren  
*Executive Director*

/jl