

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A PROPOSED AMENDMENT
TO THE GEORGIA BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY
CHAPTER 345-4, LICENSE RENEWAL, CONTINUING EDUCATION, INACTIVE
STATUS AND REINSTATEMENT OF LICENSE, RULE 345-4-.03, CONTINUING
EDUCATION PROVIDERS, AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the authority set forth below, the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy (hereinafter "Board") proposes an amendment to Rule Chapter 345-4, License Renewal, Continuing Education, Inactive Status and Reinstatement of License, rule 345-4-.03, Continuing Education Providers (hereinafter "proposed rule amendment").

This notice, together with an exact copy of the proposed rule amendment and a synopsis of the proposed rule amendment, is being disseminated to all persons who have requested, in writing, that they be placed on a distribution list. A copy of this notice, an exact copy of the proposed rule amendment, and a synopsis of the proposed rule amendment may be reviewed during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, except official State holidays, at the Office of the Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. These documents will also be available for review on the Board website <http://sos.ga.gov/index.php/licensing/plb/33>, or by contacting the Board office at 478-207-2440.

A public hearing is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. on October 28, 2016, in the Office of the Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217 to provide the public an opportunity to comment upon and provide input into the proposed rule amendment.

At the public hearing anyone may present data, make a statement, comment or offer a viewpoint or argument whether orally or in writing. Lengthy statements or statements of a considerable technical or economic nature, as well as previously recorded messages, must be submitted for the official record. Oral statements should be concise and will be limited to five (5) minutes per person. Written comments are welcomed. Such written comments must be legible and signed, should contain contact information from the maker (address, telephone number and/or facsimile number, etc.) and be actually received in the office prior to the close of business (5:00 p.m. EDT) on October 21, 2016. Written comments should be addressed to Lisa W. Durden, Director, Office of Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, Georgia State Board of Massage Therapy, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217; Fax (866) 888-1308.

The Board will consider the proposed rule amendment for adoption at its meeting scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. on October 28, 2016 at the Georgia Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. According to the Department of Law, State of Georgia, the Board has the authority to adopt proposed rule amendment to 345-4-.03 pursuant to authority contained in O.C.G.A. § 43-24A-20.

At its meeting May 12, 2016, the Board voted that the formulation and adoption of this rule does not impose excessive regulatory cost on any licensee and any cost to comply with the proposed rule cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the objectives of O.C.G.A. § 43-24A-20.

Additionally, at its meeting May 12, 2016, the Board voted that it is not legal or feasible to meet the objectives of O.C.G.A. § 43-24A-20 to adopt or implement differing actions for businesses as listed in O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(3)(A), (B), (C), and (D). The formulation and adoption of these rules will impact every licensee in the same manner and each licensee is independently licensed in the field of massage therapy.

For further information, contact the Board office at (478) 207-2440.

This notice is given in compliance with Section 4(a)(1) of the Georgia Administrative Procedures Act (O.C.G.A. §50-13-4).

This 2 day of September ~~August~~ 2016.



Lisa W. Durden
Director
Professional Licensing Boards

Posted: 6 SEPT 16

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE GEORGIA BOARD OF MASSAGE
THERAPY CHAPTER 345-4, LICENSE RENEWAL, CONTINUING EDUCATION,
INACTIVE STATUS AND REINSTATEMENT OF LICENSE, RULE 345-4-.03,
CONTINUING EDUCATION PROVIDERS**

Purpose: The purpose of this rule amendment is to update and further define the requirements of acceptable continuing education hours from any entity that is recognized/approved as “Continuing Education Provider” by the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (NCBTMB).

Main Features: The amendments further clarify the requirements that must be met in order for the Board to accept documentation of continuing education from a NCBTMB Approved Continuing Education Provider.

**DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE EXISTING RULE AND THE PROPOSED
AMENDMENTS TO THE GEORGIA BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY CHAPTER
345-4, LICENSE RENEWAL, CONTINUING EDUCATION, INACTIVE STATUS AND
REINSTATEMENT OF LICENSE, RULE 345-4-.03, CONTINUING EDUCATION
PROVIDERS [Note: underlined text is proposed to be added; lined-through text is
proposed to be deleted.]**

Rule 345-4-.03 Continuing Education Providers

(1) The Georgia Board of Massage Therapy does not pre-approve continuing education courses or programs at this time. The Board will accept continuing education hours from any entity who is recognized/approved as a "Continuing Education Provider" by the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (NCBTMB) provided that the hours are related to the scope of practice of massage therapy as defined in O.C.G.A. § 43-24A. Continuing Education Providers recognized by the NCBTMB may be located by contacting the NCBTMB directly or by searching their website, www.ncbtmb.org.

(2) In order for the Board to accept documentation of continuing education from a NCBTMB Approved Continuing Education Provider, the following requirements must be met:

(a) The provider must have had a current, unencumbered, NCBTMB approved provider number at the time the continuing education course was administered;

(b) The name/title of the course listed on the certificate of completion must be present on the list of courses that NCBTMB has authorized that CE Provider to teach under the associated approved provider number;

(c) On the date of completion for each course, the provider must provide a certificate of completion to each student/attendee who successfully completed all of the course requirements; and,

(d) The provider must record course credit information of CE Broker within seven (7) days of completion of the course for all class attendees which hold a license and have provided consent to release such information to CE Broker.

(e) The provider must have entered information relevant to the program or course to include but not limited to a description, program objective/learning outcomes, content description, and agenda or schedule into CE Broker.

(3) In addition to the above requirements, all CE certificates of completion must include the following information:

(a) The name of the attendee and their license number;

(b) The complete name/title of the course;

(c) The date(s) the attendee took and completed the course;

(d) The number of continuing education hours awarded for the course;

(e) The printed name and signature of the instructor for the course;

(f) The NCBTMB Approved Provider Name, Provider Number and expiration date;

(g) The location or site of the course, i.e. Home Study, Self-Study, Internet, Webinar, WebEx, or physical address where the course was taught; and,

(h) If the course is being submitted to meet the direct hands-on supervised instruction requirement, the certificate must denote that it is a hands-on course. In order for the course to receive hands-on credit, 70% of the course must include direct application of touch, pressure, movement, and holding to the soft tissue of the body.

(4) Providers who fail to report the CEs in accordance with this policy will be removed from the list of approved NCBTMB providers for this state and reported to NCBTMB for noncompliance.

(5) A licensee may not claim any CE hours which do not match corresponding course credit information recorded in CE Broker.

Authority: O.C.G.A. § Secs. 43-24A-20

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