

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A PROPOSED AMENDMENT
TO THE GEORGIA BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY
CHAPTER 345-8, REQUIRMENTS – BOARD RECOGNIZED MASSAGE THERAPY
EDUCATION PROGRAM, RULE 345-8-.01, CIRRICULUM REQUIREMENTS, 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 345-8, Requirements – Board Recognized Massage Therapy Education Program, rule 345-8-.01, Curriculum Requirements (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 September 9, 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 September 2, 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 September 9, 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 345-8-.01 pursuant to authority contained in O.C.G.A. §§ 43-24A-3(4) and 43-24A-8(6).

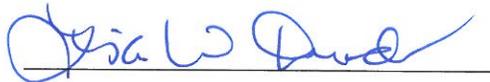
At its meeting March 4, 2016, the Board voted that the formulation and adoption of this rule does not impose excessive regulatory cost on any licensee and any cost to comply with the proposed rule cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-24A-3(4) and 43-24A-8(6).

Additionally, at its meeting March 4, 2016, the Board voted that it is not legal or feasible to meet the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-24A-3(4) and 43-24A-8(6).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 14 day of June 2016.



Lisa W. Durden
Director
Professional Licensing Boards

Posted: 16 JUNE 16

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE GEORGIA BOARD OF MASSAGE
THERAPY CHAPTER 345-8, REQUIREMENTS – BOARD RECOGNIZED MASSAGE
THERAPY EDUCATION PROGRAM, RULE 345-8-.01, CURRICULUM
REQUIREMENTS**

Purpose: The purpose is to amend the rule to establish criteria for the transfer of clock hours from one recognized massage therapy education program to another.

Main Features: The rule addresses the transfer of credit hours between education programs and establishes guidelines for the information that a Board recognized program must indicate on a student's transcript when transfer hours are accepted.

**DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE EXISTING RULE AND THE PROPOSED
AMENDMENTS TO THE GEORGIA BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY CHAPTER
345-8, REQUIREMENTS – BOARD RECOGNIZED MASSAGE THERAPY
EDUCATION PROGRAM, RULE 345-8-.01, CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS**
[Note: underlined text is proposed to be added; lined-through text is proposed to be deleted.]

345-8-.01 Curriculum Requirements. Amended.

In order to be a Georgia Board recognized massage therapy education program, the program must have a minimum curriculum of five-hundred (500) total clock hours of supervised classroom and supervised hands-on instruction. For purposes of this rule, "supervised" means the supervisor is physically on-site, qualified and immediately available. The minimum required subject matter and activities and the minimum required hours are as follows:

- (a) A minimum of one hundred twenty-five (125) hours of in-class supervised instruction in human anatomy, physiology and kinesiology;
- (b) A minimum of forty (40) hours of in-class supervised instruction in pathology;
- (c) A minimum of two-hundred hours (200) in massage therapy theory, technique and practice, which must include in-class supervised instruction of clinical techniques and hands-on clinical practice and must include, at a minimum, the following subject matters: effleurage/gliding; petrissage/kneading; compression; friction, tapotement/percussion; vibration; direct pressure; superficial warming techniques; pumping; stretching; jostling; shaking; rocking;
- (d) A minimum of one hundred twenty-five (125) hours of in-class supervised instruction in contraindications, benefits, universal precautions, body mechanics, massage history, client data collection, documentation, and legalities of massage, professional standards including draping and modesty, therapeutic relationships and communications;

(e) A minimum of ten (10) hours of in-class supervised instruction in ethics and business (to include a minimum of six (6) hours in ethics); and,

(f) Of the five hundred (500) total clock hours, the curriculum must include a minimum of fifty (50) hours in supervised student clinical practice, but no more than sixty (60) hours in supervised student clinical practice. Nothing in this rule shall be construed to prohibit a massage therapy school that has a curriculum greater than five hundred (500) hours from having more supervised student clinical practice so long as it has at least four hundred and forty (440) hours of in-class supervised instruction.

(g) If an applicant transfers from another massage therapy education program into a massage therapy education program recognized by this Board and any of the clock hours from the original program(s) are accepted as a part of the program to which the applicant transferred, the name of the original program and the clock hours accepted from that program must be identified on the transcript provided to the Board. If the transferred hours are not from a board recognized massage therapy education program, the hours may not be used to satisfy the curriculum requirements of this rule.

O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-24A-3(4) and 43-24A-8(6).

345-8-.01 Curriculum Requirements. Amended.

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O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-24A-3(4) and 43-24A-8(6).