

Request for Comments

Minnesota Department of Health

Health Regulation Division

Possible Rules Relating to Massage Therapy and Asian Bodywork Therapy Registration, a new chapter in Minnesota Rules; Revisor's ID Number R-5020

Subject of Rules. The Minnesota Department of Health requests comments on its possible rules that are necessary to implement Minn. Stat. Sections 148.636 to 148.6377, including establishing standards of practice and a professional code of ethics, and other things that come up, if time permits. More information about this rulemaking project, including updates on the status of the work, and all public notices, can be found at www.health.state.us/facilities/providers/massagetherapy/rulemaking.html.

Persons Affected. The rules would likely affect the following groups and individuals:

- Massage therapy registrants
- Asian bodywork therapy registrants
- Consumers of massage therapy
- Consumers of Asian bodywork therapy
- Municipalities and/or other governmental entities in Minnesota that license massage establishments

Statutory Authority. *Minnesota Statutes*, section 148.6362, item 2, requires the Department to “adopt rules, including standards of practice and a professional code of ethics, necessary to implement sections 148.636 to 148.6377.”

Agency Contact Person. Written comments, questions, requests to receive a copy of the rules when it has been prepared, and requests for more information on these possible rules should be directed to Celeste Marin at Minnesota Department of Health, 625 Robert St, PO BOX 64900, Saint Paul, MN 55164, (651) 201-4849 and celeste.marin@state.mn.us or submit written comments via the Court of Administrative Hearings Rulemaking eComments website at <https://minnesotaoah.granicusideas.com/discussions>.

Public Comment. Interested persons or groups may submit comments or information on these possible rules in writing until 4:30 p.m. on Friday, October 16, 2026.

The Department will not publish a notice of intent to adopt the rules until more than 60 days have elapsed from the date of this request for comments.

This information can be provided as a comment on the Court of Administrative Hearings Rulemaking eComments website at <https://minnesotaoah.granicusideas.com/discussions>, or by contacting Celeste Marin using the contact methods above. This public comment opportunity is associated with the development of possible rules. Comments received in response to this notice will not be included in the formal rulemaking record submitted to the Administrative Law Judge if and when a proceeding to adopt rules is started. The Department is required to submit to the judge only those written comments received in response to the rules after they are proposed. If you submit comments during the development of the rules and you want to ensure that the Administrative Law Judge reviews the comments, you must resubmit the comments after the rules are formally proposed.

Advisory Committee. The Department does plan to appoint an advisory committee to comment on the possible rules. The Department is looking for a variety of viewpoints from the massage therapy and Asian bodywork therapy industry, including practitioners, instructors, clients, and municipalities that currently license therapists, and hopes to appoint approximately 15 people with varying viewpoints and geographical balance within the state of Minnesota. If you are interested in participating as part of the advisory committee, please fill out the advisory committee interest form at <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/g/FfahjgRta>. This form can also be found on the Massage Therapy and Asian Bodywork Therapy rulemaking website at www.health.state.us/facilities/providers/massagetherapy/rulemaking.html. You must apply through the interest form by Friday, October 16, 2026. If you need accommodations or an alternative way to fill out this form, please contact Celeste Marin using the contact methods above.

Local Governments. The Department is also interested in comments from local governments related to:

1. whether the cost of complying with the rule in the first year after the rule takes effect will exceed \$25,000 for one small city or business under Minnesota Statutes, section 14,127.
2. whether local governments might be required to adopt or amend an ordinance or other regulation to implement these rules.
3. How standards of practice and a professional code of ethics interacts with municipal-level licensing of massage therapy establishments in your jurisdiction, and any suggestions or comments you have.

The department therefore requests that local governments provide us with any relevant information about their ordinances, through the public comment options listed above.

Rules Drafts. The Department has not yet drafted the possible rules and does not anticipate that a draft of the rules will be available before the publication of the proposed rules.

Alternative Format. Upon request, this information can be made available in an alternative format, such as large print, braille, or audio. To make such a request or if you need an accommodation to make this hearing accessible, please contact the agency contact person at the address or telephone number listed above.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of stylized, overlapping loops and strokes, positioned above a horizontal line.

Deputy Commissioner

Date: July 24, 2026