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California Massage Schools Association

## SB1451 Passed

**This bill moved the repeal date of the massage therapy act (CAMTC) to January 1, 2026.**

## Join now the movement for a State License for Massage Therapists 2025

Last week, California legislators voted to pass SB1451

The following language is taken from the California State Assembly website regarding SB1451:

"Massage Therapy. CAMTC was first established in 2009. Unlike most regulatory bodies responsible for overseeing healing arts professionals in California, CAMTC is not a state agency and does not function as part of the state's government. Instead, it is incorporated as a private nonprofit, governed by a board of appointed directors. As discussed throughout CAMTC's most recent sunset review background paper, there are numerous potential downsides to empowering an entity outside of state government to exercise regulatory control over a profession. Proposals have been made to convert CAMTC into a state licensing board, or to revise the Massage Therapy Act to require the council to further emulate the state licensing board model in areas that would increase public confidence and allow the industry to more closely resemble other health care professionals. **However, CAMTC's most recent sunset review ultimately did not substantially change how CAMTC is structured. In the years following CAMTC's most recent sunset review, further scrutiny to its operations has been elicited by actions taken by the council that appear to reflect a deliberate circumvention of transparency and accountability.** In November 2022, CAMTC increased its certificate fees by fifty percent, despite having indicated to the Legislature during its sunset review that it was sufficiently funded. Additionally, as described in a subsequent letter sent from members of the California State Assembly to CAMTC's leadership, the logistics of the vote to increase fees appeared "intentionally intended to obstruct public discussion." Further concerns were subsequently raised by members of CAMTC's board of directors about the council's operations, including its staff compensation, spending, and political activities. During a June 2024 board meeting, there appeared to be a concerted effort by CAMTC's leadership to remove several directors from the board who had questioned the council's actions. Following this meeting, it became apparent that CAMTC's board of directors was expected to loyally affirm the decisions of the council's staff, rather than provide independent oversight of its functions on behalf of the public. **This bill would ensure that CAMTC is subjected to an appropriate level of transparency and accountability by moving its sunset review by the Legislature up one year so that it would be scheduled for repeal on January 1, 2026. In the meantime, this bill would additionally clarify that CAMTC cannot remove board members appointed by other entities pursuant to statute, either directly or by changing a member's appointing authority midterm. This bill would further prohibit CAMTC board members from serving more than two terms, applied retroactively so that a more independent board of directors will be in place during the council's next sunset review.**"

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You may follow this bill:

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202320240SB1451](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB1451)

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