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Form Montana Licensing Reform Task Force
Matter Meredith Eckerdt - Rules
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Montana Licensing Reform Task Force

This Task Force was created pursuant to Executive Order 1-2026 on January 29, 2026.

Purpose of the Licensing Reform Task Force

The Task Force shall provide the Governor with recommendations and strategies for the State of Montana to reform the professional occupational licensing system for the purposes of:

- identifying and removing burdens and barriers faced by licensees that are not necessary to protect the public; and
- improving access to and availability of professional services for citizens across Montana, including rural communities.

In developing recommendations and strategies, the Task Force shall seek input from Montana citizens, legislators, Montana associations whose members are licensed occupational professionals, professional licensing boards, relevant state agencies, advisory groups and researchers focused on occupational licensing, and other appropriate stakeholders as determined by the Task Force.

Public Record

Please note that all information received through this form is public record.

Which committee would you like to receive your comment?

Health Care Subcommittee

We want to hear from you!

We would like to receive any comments you would like the Task Force, or one of its subcommittees, to review. In addition, we are specifically looking for feedback for:

1. Specific topics a committee or the task force should consider, and
2. Specific people or organizations you think the task force should hear from.

Do you have a general comment or a specific person or topic for the Task Force to hear from?

Specific person or topic

What are your comments?

This is directed to the attempted merging of the Board of Massage Therapy with the Board of Cosmetology:

Massage therapists and Cosmetologists are no where near the same industry. They differ greatly even though you can pair them in a "similar enough" worksetting. I have experienced this in my profession as a full-time Licensed Massage Therapist. I do not support the Board of Massage Therapy merging with the Board of Cosmetology. Again, they are just too different. Ultimately, it's difficult to be in the same environment as cosmetologists and be understood and respected in your job, doing your profession in the manner you learned. They just don't mesh well at the end of the day because of their multiple differences and requirements within each profession.

If the Board of Massage Therapy has to merge somewhere, while it would be best to retain the Board of Massage Therapy individually, we'd like to consolidate with the Alternative Health Care Board (naturopaths, direct-entry midwives, and acupuncturists), as they are an exponentially much better fit. Apparently, Option #2 proposed by the Department suggested merging chiropractors and LMTs with the AHCB. The BLMTB supports that option and as do I.

Again, I oppose the merging of the Board of Massage Therapy with the Board of Cosmetology as they are vastly different, with vastly different requirements to run a business, and vastly different history of schooling and education needed to perform each respective job.

Thank you for your time. I would overall prefer and vote for the Board of Massage Therapy to remain in itself as an individual.

*Signed,
Meredith Eckerdt, LMT, BS, RMT*
