



March 31, 2025

Dear Chair Moller, Chair Novotny, and Members of the House Public Safety Committee:

Metro Cities, representing the collective interests of cities in the metropolitan area, appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on HF 1354 (Moller), as amended by the DE 2 Amendment.

Metro Cities supports the inclusion of Section 8, which authorizes cities to conduct federal background checks for individuals applying for a local license to operate a massage business. The standalone bill, HF 286 (Perryman), was unanimously passed by the House this session and metropolitan area cities appreciate its inclusion in the House Public Safety Policy bill.

In the absence of statewide regulation for massage therapy practitioners, many cities have enacted local ordinances that require massage therapists to obtain a local professional license to assist law enforcement in differentiating between legitimate practitioners and illegitimate businesses fronting as massage therapy establishments. Expanded background check authority will help local governments identify potential bad actors who have come from out of state to apply for a local license.

Metro Cities encourages the committee to consider building on this effort in future legislative sessions by establishing statewide registration or licensure for massage businesses to aid local law enforcement efforts in quickly identifying illegitimate businesses as they move between local jurisdictions.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Lund". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Mike Lund
Government Relations Specialist
Metro Cities