

BEFORE THE IOWA BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY

IN THE MATTER OF:)	
THE PETITION FOR)	
RULE WAIVER BY:)	ORDER DENYING WAIVER
)	REQUEST
ALYSSA HUCKFELT,)	
Petitioner.)	

Pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.9A and Iowa Administrative Code (“IAC”) rule 481—6, the Iowa Board of Massage Therapy (“Board”) makes the following ruling on the Petition for Waiver submitted by Alyssa Huckfelt, (“Petitioner”).

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On or about November 19, 2025, Petitioner filed a Petition for Waiver, which the Board considered at a meeting held December 2, 2025.
2. Petitioner is applying for her Iowa Massage Therapy License. In her Application, Petitioner is requesting a waiver of Iowa’s requirement that applicants have a minimum of six hundred (600) hours of supervised academic instruction from a board-approved institution, pursuant to Iowa Code Section 152C.3, and 481 Iowa Administrative Code 821.
3. In December, 2024, Petitioner completed her massage therapy training in Texas, at a school that provided five hundred (500) hours of supervised academic instruction. In January, 2025, Petitioner received her Texas License to Practice Massage Therapy.
4. Petitioner is one hundred (100) hours short of the required education to obtain an Iowa Massage Therapy License.
5. Petitioner requests her work experience count towards her educational instruction in order to receive her Iowa License to Practice Massage Therapy, and cites to 481 IAC 501.2 in her request.
6. 481 IAC 501.2 applies to applicants with work experience in jurisdictions without licensure. While Texas does have licensure, which requires less education than Iowa, the rule further states as follows (with emphasis added):

“An applicant who wishes to substitute work experience in lieu of satisfying applicable education or training requirements shall carry the burden of proving **all of the following** by submitting relevant documents as part of a completed license application: a. Proof of Iowa residency. b. **Proof of three or more years of work experience within the four years preceding the application for licensure.** c. Proof that the work experience was in a practice with a scope of practice substantially similar to that for which the license is sought in Iowa.

7. The Board considered the Petition for Waiver at a board meeting on December 2, 2025.

APPLICABLE LAW

8. Pursuant to Iowa Administrative Code chapter 481—6.1(3), the Board may in its sole discretion issue an order waiving in whole or in part the requirements of a rule if the board finds, based on clear and convincing evidence, all of the following:
 - a. The application of the rule would impose an undue hardship on the person for whom the waiver is requested;
 - b. The waiver from the requirements of the rule in the specific case would not prejudice the substantial legal rights of any person;
 - c. The provisions of the rule subject to the petition for waiver are not specifically mandated by statute or another provision of law; and
 - d. Substantially equal protection of public health, safety, and welfare will be afforded by a means other than that prescribed in the particular rule for which the waiver is requested.
9. “The burden of persuasion rests with the petitioner to demonstrate by clear and convincing evidence that the [board] should exercise its discretion to grant a waiver from a [board] rule.” 481 IAC 6.1(8)(b).
10. The Board's rules provide “The final decision on whether the circumstances justify the granting of a waiver is at the discretion of the department upon consideration of all relevant factors. Each petition for a waiver will be evaluated by the department based on the unique, individual circumstances set out in the petition.” 481 IAC 6.1(8)(a).
11. “A waiver, if granted, shall provide the narrowest exception possible to the provisions of a rule.” 481 IAC 6.1(8)(f).

ANALYSIS OF WAIVER CRITERIA

Whether the application of the rule would create an undue hardship on the person for whom the waiver is requested:

12. Application of the rule, which requires six hundred (600) hours of supervised academic instruction, would not create an undue hardship on Petitioner. All licensees must complete the required six hundred (600) hours of education; applicants who come from a *state that does not require licensure* may request waiver of the six hundred (600) hours if they have practiced for a minimum of three (3) of the past four (4) years. Applicants also have the option of applying for licensure by verification if the state they come from has substantially similar requirements to Iowa’s licensure requirements.

Whether the waiver from the requirements of the rule in the specific case would prejudice the substantial legal rights of any person:

13. Waiving the requirements of the rule would not prejudice the substantial legal rights of any person.

Whether the provision of the rule subject to the petition for waiver is not specifically mandated by another provision of law:

14. The requirement found in the Board’s administrative rule is specifically mandated by statute, under Iowa Code Section 152C.3; however, educational requirements Iowa Code 152C.3 can be reduced if the Board finds the public may be adequately protected with the applicant having fewer hours of education.

Whether substantially equal protection of the public health, safety, and welfare will be afforded by a means other than that prescribed in the particular rule for which the waiver is requested:

15. The public health, safety, and welfare will not be afforded by other means if this waiver is granted, as the requirement to complete six hundred (600) of supervised academic instruction, or in the alternative, having worked as a massage therapist for a minimum of three (3) years of the four (4) years prior to application if the applicant is coming from a state that does not require licensure, is in place to confirm minimum competency of Iowa massage therapists.

Without having met these minimum standards, the public’s health, safety and welfare is at risk of receiving inadequate services.

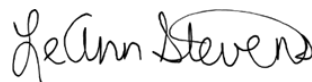
CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

For the reasons set forth above and upon review of the Petition, the Board finds that Petitioner has not satisfied the four criteria for waiver set forth in IAC 481—6.1(3).

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED the Petition for Waiver of 481 Iowa Administrative Code chapter 821.2 is DENIED.

Issued January 29, 2026.



Leann Stevens
Chairperson
Iowa Board of Behavioral Health Professionals

Copy to:

Jessica Chandler