

Music Therapy State Recognition: National Overview

The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) and the Certification Board for Music Therapists (CBMT) collaborate on the State Recognition Operational Plan, a joint national initiative to achieve official state recognition of the music therapy profession and the MT-BC credential required for competent practice. Desired outcomes include improving consumer access to music therapy services and establishing a state-based public protection program to ensure that “music therapy” is provided by individuals who meet established training qualifications. Inclusion within state health and education regulations can also have a positive impact on employment opportunities funding options, while meeting requirements of treatment facilities and accrediting organizations.

Current Recognition

California (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB1540)

Music therapy title protection signed into law 2019. Practitioners must hold the MT-BC credential.

Connecticut (<https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Practitioner-Licensing--Investigations/Music-Therapit/Music-Therapist>)

Music therapy title protection established in 2016. Practitioners must hold the MT-BC credential.

Georgia (<http://sos.ga.gov/index.php/licensing/plb/59>)

Music therapy license established in 2012. Overseen by the Secretary of State using a volunteer Advisory Council.

Nevada (http://dph.nv.gov/Reg/MusicTherapist/MusicTherapists_-_Home/)

Music therapy license established in 2011. Overseen by the State Board of Health using an Advisory Council.

New Jersey

Music therapy license created January 2020. Overseen by the State Board of Creative Arts and Activities Therapies.

North Dakota (<http://ndbihc.org/>)

Music therapy license established in 2011. Overseen by the newly created Board of Integrative Health.

Oklahoma (http://www.okmedicalboard.org/music_therapists)

Music therapy license established in 2016. Managed by the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision.

Oregon (<http://www.oregon.gov/OHA/PH/HLO/Pages/Board-Music-Therapy-Program.aspx>)

Music therapy license established in 2015. Managed by the Health Licensing Office.

Rhode Island (<http://health.ri.gov/licenses/detail.php?id=287>)

Music therapy registry established in 2015. Managed by the Department of Health.

Utah (http://www.dopl.utah.gov/licensing/music_therapy.html)

Music therapy state certification established in 2014. Managed by the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing.

Virginia

Music therapy license created March 2020. Overseen by the Board of Social Work.

Wisconsin (<https://dsps.wi.gov/Pages/Professions/MusicTherapist/Default.aspx>)

Music therapy registry established in 1998.

2021 Legislative Activity

The following states have introduced or are planning to introduce legislation to recognize music therapy education, clinical training, and credentialing qualifications: **Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas.**