

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

Connecticut

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 overseen by the Secretary of State utilizes an ad hoc volunteer Advisory Council. License created in 2012 and regulations approved in 2013.

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

Music therapy license overseen by the State Board of Health utilizes an ad hoc Advisory Council. License created in 2011 and regulations approved in 2012.

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

Music therapy license overseen by the newly created Board of Integrative Health. License created in 2011 and regulations approved in 2013.

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

Music therapy license managed by the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision was signed into law in 2016.

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

Music therapy license managed by the Health Licensing Office was signed into law and regulations approved in 2015.

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

Music therapy registry managed by the Department of Health was signed into law in 2014 and regulations approved in 2015.

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

Legislation creating a music therapy state certification managed by the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing signed into law and regulations approved in 2014.

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

Music therapy registry created in 1998.

2019 Legislative Activity

The following states have introduced or are planning to introduce legislation to recognize music therapy education, clinical training, and credentialing qualifications: **California, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, and Washington.**