

PLEASE SUPPORT HB22-1399

“Music Therapist Title Protection”

Sponsors: Rep. Ortiz & Boesenecker and Sen. Ginal

Summary:

The bill provides that an individual may not profess to be a music therapist unless the individual holds and maintains the Music Therapist – Board Certified (“MT-BC”) credential administered by the Certification Board for Music Therapists (CBMT). Provides that an individual who holds oneself out to the public as a music therapist without the MT-BC credential is in violation of the Consumer Protection Act.

What is Music Therapy?

Music Therapy is the clinical and evidence-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program. Music therapists are independently certified through the Certification Board for Music Therapists after completing a bachelor’s or master’s degree, 1200+ hours of clinical training between practicum and supervised internship, and passing a national board exam.

The Problem:

1 in 6 Colorado music therapists have been made aware of cases where potential or real harm has been done to a consumer of services by a *non-credentialed service provider* claiming to be a music therapist. Access to qualified music therapy services is hindered by the lack of state recognition of the profession and MT-BC credential required for competent practice.

Title protection will help Coloradans have access to safe, quality, and compassionate care by ensuring that those providing clinical music therapy services are appropriately credentialed.

- Currently, there are over 250 board-certified music therapists in Colorado.
- It is estimated that Colorado music therapists treated over 22,000 Coloradans last year. Unfortunately, many people who could benefit from music therapy have no access to services due to the lack of state recognition.
- Populations served in Colorado include individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities, autism spectrum disorder, hospice patients, veterans, patients with physical and sensory impairments, mental health, and seniors with Alzheimer’s or dementia
- Where do MT-BCs work? In residential care facilities for persons with developmental disabilities and mental illnesses, schools, general medical hospitals, rehabilitation hospitals, hospices, behavioral and mental health agencies, geriatric facilities, group homes, child development centers, outpatient clinics, other health and educational facilities, and private practice.

Recognition of Board Certified Music Therapists:

Currently, 14 states have legislation recognizing the MT-BC credential. This includes licensure, registration, state certification, and title protection. In addition, there are 11 states that have introduced, or are planning to file MT legislation in 2022. Most recently, California and Connecticut have passed similar title protection measures.

Lobbyist Contact:

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Music Therapy in Colorado Media:

Clinical Profiles Video March 2022: https://youtu.be/yksoZcVVR_g

[The Beauty and Resilience of Music Therapy Amid COVID-19 - 303 Magazine](#)

[Stroke Survivors With Aphasia Make Their Voices Heard Despite COVID – CBS Denver \(cbslocal.com\)](#) <https://denver.cbslocal.com/2020/12/14/aphasia-covid-aurora-chorale-concert/>

https://www.chieftain.com/news/20190306/soothing-sounds-hospice-patient-revels-in-music-therapy?fbclid=IwAR1EqahpIWW-sYgYfDOeEVHrs51UmEhsUF8ClS YkxUOT_1nRL2IF4qC7aag

https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=UU3cURzXjmtaLnS8z7QAnOag&v=h1v1aMBAsEE&feature=emb_title

[DRwJL – Music through Certified Therapists takes this Alternative Therapy to a New Level! | Summit Resilience Training](#)