

**Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure
2025-2026 (194th) Bill Summary**

BILL NUMBER: H3939

TITLE: An Act relative to music therapy licensure

SPONSOR(S): Donaghue, Kate

HEARING DATE: June 2, 2025

REPORTING DEADLINE: August 1, 2025

CURRENT LAW

Chapter 13 of the Massachusetts General Laws establishes the several boards of registration within the Division of Occupational Licensure or the Department of Public Health.

Chapter 112 of the Massachusetts General Laws establishes and regulates the registration of certain professions and occupations. Section 1 of said chapter establishes the duties of the commissioners of occupational licensure and of public health, the boards within each commissioner's oversight.

SUMMARY

This legislation seeks to establish a Board of Registration for Music Therapists. The Board would establish the requirements for registration, establish ethical standards, investigate complaints, evaluate the qualifications of applicants and grant licenses to those who pass the examination and who are determined to be qualified as music therapists.

Music therapy interventions may include: music improvisation; receptive music listening; songwriting; lyric discussion; music and imagery; singing; music performance; learning through music; music combined with other arts; music-assisted relaxation; music-based patient education; electronic music technology; adapted music intervention; and movement to music. Music therapists would be prohibited from presenting themselves to be qualified to diagnose any physical, mental, or communication disorder, or presenting themselves as a licensed audiologist, unless they are licensed to do so in addition to their music therapy license. Music therapists would be tasked with collaborating with a larger treatment team for a client.

Applicants for licensure would be required to pass examination, as prescribed by the Certification Board for Music Therapists. They would also be required to complete continuing education, as prescribed by the Board. In order to apply, individuals would need to inform the Board in writing of their desire for licensure. Applicants must be of good moral character; possess a bachelor's degree or higher in music therapy, or its equivalent, including clinical training hours, from a music therapy program within an accredited college or university; and provide proof of passing the examination for board certification offered by the Certification Board for Music Therapists. The examination could be waived for experience working as a licensed music therapist in another state.

The Board would promulgate rules and regulations for the practice of music therapy and would be authorized to hold hearings and suspend licenses; and violators would be subject to fines. The Board would also be authorized to grant provisional music therapy licenses for a period no longer than 6 months.