

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 26, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

## ASSEMBLY BILL

**No. 1279**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Holden**

February 27, 2015

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An act to add Chapter 10.7 (commencing with Section 4650) to Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to music therapy.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AB 1279, as amended, Holden. Music therapy.

Existing law provides for the licensure and regulation of various healing arts practitioners by boards within the Department of Consumer Affairs. *Existing law does not provide for the licensure of music therapists.*

~~This bill would enact the Music Therapy Act and would state the intent of the Legislature to provide statutory definitions relating to the practice of music therapy and enable consumers and state and local agencies to more easily identify qualified music therapists. The bill would define terms for the purposes of the act. provide that only a qualified person, defined as an individual who has completed the education and clinical training requirements established by a specified music therapy association and who holds current board certification from a specified certification organization, shall be permitted to perform music therapy interventions. The bill would further provide that an individual providing music therapy interventions shall not refer to himself or herself using the title of “Board Certified Music Therapist” unless the individual meets certain criteria and has been awarded a credential from the specified certification organization.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Chapter 10.7 (commencing with Section 4650)  
is added to Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code, to  
read:

CHAPTER 10.7. MUSIC THERAPY

4650. This chapter shall be known, and may be cited, as the  
Music Therapy Act.

4651. The Legislature finds and declares the following:

(a) Existing national certification of music therapist requires  
the therapist to have graduated with a bachelor's degree or its  
equivalent, or higher, from a music therapy degree program  
approved by the American Music Therapy Association (AMTA),  
successful completion of a minimum of 1,200 hours of supervised  
clinical work through preinternship training at an approved degree  
program, and internship training through approved national roster  
or university affiliated internship programs, or an equivalent.

(b) Upon successful completion of the AMTA academic and  
clinical training requirements or its international equivalent, an  
individual is eligible to sit for the national board certification exam  
administered by the Certification Board for Music Therapists  
(CBMT), an independent, nonprofit corporation fully accredited  
by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies.

(c) The CBMT grants the Music Therapist-Board Certified  
(MT-BC) credential to music therapists who have demonstrated  
the knowledge, skills, and abilities for competence in the current  
practice of music therapy. The purpose of board certification in  
music therapy is to provide an objective national standard that can  
be used as a measure of professionalism and competence by  
interested agencies, groups, and individuals.

(d) The MT-BC is awarded by the CBMT to an individual upon  
successful completion of an academic and clinical training program  
approved by the AMTA or an international equivalent and  
successful completion of an objective written examination  
demonstrating current competency in the profession of music

1 therapy. The CBMT administers this examination, which is based  
2 on a nationwide music therapy practice analysis that is reviewed  
3 and updated every five years to reflect current clinical practice.

4 (e) Once certified, a music therapist must adhere to the CBMT  
5 Code of Professional Practice and recertify every five years through  
6 either a program of continuing education or reexamination.

7 4652. It is the intent of the Legislature that this chapter do the  
8 following:

9 (a) Provide statutory definitions relating to the practice of music  
10 therapy.

11 (b) Enable consumers and state and local agencies to more easily  
12 identify qualified music therapists.

13 4653. As used in this ~~act~~ *chapter*:

14 (a) “Music therapy” means the clinical and evidence-based use  
15 of music therapy interventions in developmental, rehabilitative,  
16 habilitative, medical, mental health, preventive, wellness care, or  
17 educational settings to accomplish individualized goals for people  
18 of all ages and ability levels within a therapeutic relationship by  
19 a qualified individual. Music therapy includes all of the following:

20 (1) The development of music therapy treatment plans specific  
21 to the needs and strengths of the client who may be seen  
22 individually or in groups.

23 (2) Individualized treatment plans for each client.

24 (3) The establishment of goals, objectives, and potential  
25 strategies of the music therapy services appropriate for the client  
26 and setting.

27 (b) “Music therapy interventions” include, but are not limited  
28 to, music improvisation, receptive music listening, song writing,  
29 lyric discussion, music and imagery, singing, music performance,  
30 learning through music, music combined with other arts,  
31 music-assisted relaxation, music-based patient education, electronic  
32 music technology, adapted music intervention, and movement to  
33 music.

34 (c) “Qualified individual” includes an individual who has  
35 completed the education and clinical training requirements  
36 established by the American Music Therapy Association and who  
37 holds current board certification from the Certification Board for  
38 Music Therapists.

39 4654. *Only qualified persons, as defined in subdivision (c) of*  
40 *Section 4653, shall be permitted to perform music therapy*

1 *interventions in the State of California. An individual providing*  
2 *music therapy interventions shall not refer to himself or herself*  
3 *using the title of “Board Certified Music Therapist” unless the*  
4 *individual meets the criteria specified in subdivision (c) of Section*  
5 *4653 and has been awarded the MT-BC credential from the*  
6 *Certification Board of Music Therapists.*

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