

Committee Report

REGULAR CALENDAR

March 8, 2021

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The Committee on Executive Departments and Administration to which was referred HB 209-FN,

AN ACT relative to the licensure and regulation of music therapists. Having considered the same, report the same with the following resolution: RESOLVED, that it is INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.

Rep. Carol McGuire

FOR THE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE REPORT

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Committee: | Executive Departments and Administration |
| Bill Number: | HB 209-FN |
| Title: | relative to the licensure and regulation of music therapists. |
| Date: | March 8, 2021 |
| Consent Calendar: | REGULAR |
| Recommendation: | INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE |

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This bill would license music therapists. From the hearing, we learned that music therapists (40 of them!) work in New Hampshire now. Their issue is that their clients must pay out of pocket as Medicaid and most private insurance carriers will not pay for services from unlicensed professionals. The committee was disappointed to learn that the scope of practice dispute with speech-language pathologists has not been resolved, and they are still opposed to this bill. In essence, this bill sets up a way for music therapists to show their private certification, pay the fee, and get a license they can use to get insurance reimbursement.

Vote 10-9.

Rep. Carol McGuire
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

Executive Departments and Administration

HB 209-FN, relative to the licensure and regulation of music therapists. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Carol McGuire for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill would license music therapists. From the hearing, we learned that music therapists (40 of them!) work in New Hampshire now. Their issue is that their clients must pay out of pocket as Medicaid and most private insurance carriers will not pay for services from unlicensed professionals. The committee was disappointed to learn that the scope of practice dispute with speech-language pathologists has not been resolved, and they are still opposed to this bill. In essence, this bill sets up a way for music therapists to show their private certification, pay the fee, and get a license they can use to get insurance reimbursement. **Vote 10-9.**

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

Archived: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 9:30:57 AM
From: [Miriam Simmons](#)
Sent: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 8:52:06 AM
To: [Miriam Simmons](#)
Subject: HB 209 CR - Majority - McGuire
Response requested: No
Importance: Normal

From: Carol McGuire <mcguire4house@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 10:50 AM
To: [Miriam Simmons <miriam.simmons@leg.state.nh.us>](mailto:miriam.simmons@leg.state.nh.us); [Pam Smarling <Pam.Smarling@leg.state.nh.us>](mailto:Pam.Smarling@leg.state.nh.us)
Subject: Committee reports

Committee report, HB 209, licensing music therapists

ITL, 10-9, regular calendar

This bill would license music therapists. From the hearing, we learned that music therapists (40 of them!) work in New Hampshire now: their issue is that their clients must pay out of pocket as Medicaid and most private insurance will not pay for services from unlicensed professionals. The committee was disappointed to learn that the scope of practice dispute with speech-language pathologists has not been resolved, and they are still opposed to this bill. In addition, this bill does not actually set up a regulatory structure for music therapists: there is no authority to discipline any bad actors, no rule-writing authority to flesh out the details of regulation, and no penalties for violating any provision of the statute. In essence, this bill sets up a way for music therapists to show their private certification, pay the fee, and get a license they can use to get insurance reimbursement.

Carol McGuire for the majority

Voting Sheets

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 209-FN

BILL TITLE: relative to the licensure and regulation of music therapists.

DATE: March 8, 2021

LOB ROOM: Remote / Hybrid

MOTIONS: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

Moved by Rep. McGuire

Seconded by Rep. Sytek

Vote: 10-9

CONSENT CALENDAR: NO

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report
Minority by Grote = OTP

Respectfully submitted,

Rep John Sytek, Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS & ADMINISTRATION

EXECUTIVE SESSION on Bill # HB 209

BILL TITLE: RELATIVE TO THE LICENSURE AND REGULATION THERAPISTS.

DATE: 3-8-21

LOB ROOM: 206-208

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP
- ITL
- Retain (1st year)
- Adoption of Amendment # _____
(if offered)
- Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. McGUIRE Seconded by Rep. SYTEK Vote: 10-9

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP
- OTP/A
- ITL
- Retain (1st year)
- Adoption of Amendment # _____
(if offered)
- Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote: _____

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP
- OTP/A
- ITL
- Retain (1st year)
- Adoption of Amendment # _____
(if offered)
- Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote: _____

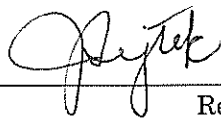
MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP
- OTP/A
- ITL
- Retain (1st year)
- Adoption of Amendment # _____
(if offered)
- Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote: _____

CONSENT CALENDAR: ___ YES X NO

Minority Report? X Yes ___ No If yes, author, Rep: GROTE Motion READONLY CTP

Respectfully submitted: 
Rep. John Sytek, Clerk



2021 SESSION

Executive Departments and Administration

Bill #: HB 209 Motion: ITL AM #: _____ Exec Session Date: 3-8-21

| <u>Members</u> | <u>YEAS</u> | <u>Nays</u> | <u>NV</u> |
|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| McGuire, Carol M. Chairman | X | | |
| Roy, Terry Vice Chairman | X | | |
| Sytek, John Clerk | X | | |
| Pearson, Stephen C. | X | | |
| Yakubovich, Michael | X | | |
| Lekas, Tony | X | | |
| Alliegro, Mark C. | X | | |
| Bailey, Glenn | X | | |
| Lanzara, Tom E. | X | | |
| Santonastaso, Matthew | X | | |
| Goley, Jeffrey P. | | X | |
| Schuett, Dianne E. | | X | |
| Jeudy, Jean L. | | X | |
| Schmidt, Peter B. | | X | |
| Schultz, Kristina M. | | X | |
| Fellows, Sallie D. | | X | |
| Fontneau, Timothy J. <u>GRABBE</u> | | X | |
| Grote, Jaci L. | | X | |
| O'Brien, Michael B. | | X | |
| TOTAL VOTE: | | | |

10-9

Hearing Minutes

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 209-FN

BILL TITLE: relative to the licensure and regulation of music therapists.

DATE: February 1, 2021

LOB ROOM: LOB Hybrid **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** 1:35 p.m.

Time Adjourned: 3:35 p.m.

(please circle if present)

Committee Members: Reps. McGuire, Roy, Sytek, S. Pearson, Yakubovich, Lekas, Alliegro, Bailey, Lanzara, Santonastaso, P. Schmidt, Schafitz, Goley, Jevdy, Schuett, Fellows, Fontneau, Grote, M. O'Brien

Bill Sponsors:
Rep. McGhee

TESTIMONY

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

**HB 209 relative to the licensure and regulation of music therapists.
(1:35/3:35)**

Rep. McGhee introduced the bill and spoke in favor.

Rep. McGhee said this was an allied health profession. She described the benefits of music therapy both physical and emotional. She said music therapists work with all populations and works where other therapies do not. She defined what music therapy is and how it is helpful to those who have difficulty expressing themselves in words and how it is emotionally supportive. Costs of the board would be borne by license fees.

Tina Kelley, OPLC, spoke as a matter of information.

She said there was an area of concern in that the bill did not make clear whether this was an independent board or an advisory (to the OPLC Director) board. She also requested another position in OPLC, saying that people were stretched to the limit. There was a question as to whether this function could be absorbed by present personnel.

Questions - There were questions concerning that there was no penalty and would this bar the way for people seeking this help.

Marissa Scott, NH Music Therapy Task Force Chair, spoke in favor.

This bill would increase access to music therapy and that it would protect public from harm. She said that therapists could not get insurance reimbursement, including from Medicare, since they could not put in an insurance number. She said that, while the intent of the bill was not to get insurance reimbursement, without such reimbursement they could not handle referrals from doctors. She gave an example of how improper music therapy technique could cause harm.

Question / Answer - In response to a question she said that they are not medically trained in the event of evident harm.

Rebecca Gildea, Board Certified Music Therapist, spoke in favor.

Ms. Gildea described the number of therapists (40) and the settings in which they practice and their impact. She also described the educational requirements to be a music therapist. There is a national board that provides certification. Therapists must complete 100 hours of professional development every 5 years.

Neil Themea, VP Government Relations of the NH Speech, Language, and Hearing Association, spoke in opposition to the bill as written but not to its concept. He said that there were issues concerning scope of practice and has suggested remedial language.

Questions - There were questions concerning whether this bill was the same as that of last year i.e. as introduced or as amended.

Heather Young, a citizen, spoke in support citing her personal experience with the benefits of music therapy with her son.

Cacia King, Board Certified MT (music therapist) and adjunct professor at Anna Maria College, spoke in favor.

She said there were concerns about relocation because there are no degree programs in music therapy in NH, that is, people tend to practice where they are educated. She said that this bill would improve access to music therapy in that lack of licensure was a barrier to reimbursement.

Nicole O'Malley, an MT, the government relations representative for the music therapists and task force director for this legislation in and from Rhode Island spoke in favor. She described the risks from well-intentioned but misinformed musicians practicing as therapists and cited her experience with her own children in this regard. MT do not diagnose; they treat. She described the relation between speech therapists and MT. The two disciplines have worked collaboratively in her experience. She felt that any problems were "political." She described how her group and the speech therapists collaborated on a scope of practice and the avoidance of an "oligarchy" structure.

Victoria Chesterley, Past Vice-President of Government Affairs of the NHSLHA, spoke in opposition.

Ms. Chesterley said that the amendments were excellent but they wanted a little bit more. She said that for a practice to be therapeutic, it needed goals and a treatment plan. She would not be opposed if the two groups could clarify parameters between them. *She would be interested in the RI situation and how to avoid confusion by the public of the two therapies.* She stressed the importance of the therapies working together.

Mr. Themea was recognized for a second time.

He said that the issue was not political and tried to clarify some earlier points; that the practitioners in NHSLHA did make referrals.

Question / Answer - In answer to a question he said that last term's amendments were good, but he was concerned about treatment language.

Public hearing adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Rep. John Sytek
Committee Clekr

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS & ADMINISTRATION

PUBLIC HEARING on Bill # HB 209-FN

BILL TITLE: RELATIVE TO THE LICENSURE + REGULATION OF MUSIC THERAPISTS

DATE: 2-1-21
ROOM: 206 LDB
208A

Time Public Hearing Called to Order: 2:15

Time Adjourned: 3:35

(please circle if present) ALL

Committee Members: Reps. McGuire, Roy, Sytek, S. Pearson, Yakubovich, Lekas, Alliegro, Bailey, Lanzara, Santonastaso, P. Schmidt, Schaftz, Coley, Jevdy, Schuett, Fellows, Fontneau, Grote, M. O'Brien

TESTIMONY

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted

(This area contains horizontal lines for testimony and amendments)

HB 209 relative to the licensure and regulation of music therapists. (1:35/3:35)

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House Remote Testify

Executive Departments and Administration Committee Testify List for Bill HB209 on 2

Support: 72 Oppose: 11 Neutral: 2 Total to Testify: 9

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Email Address</u> | <u>Phone</u> | <u>Title</u> | <u>Representing</u> | <u>Position</u> | <u>Testifying</u> |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------|--|-----------------|-------------------|
| Kelley, Tina | tina.m.kelley@oplc.nh.gov | 603.387.4524 | State Agency Staff | OPLC | Neutral | Yes (5m) |
| O'Malley, Nicole | Nomalley@hnhri.org | 401.345.1738 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | Yes (3m) |
| King, Cacia | Cacia@thesonatinacenter.com | 603.770.6051 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | Yes (3m) |
| Young, Heather | heatherdonnell2006@yahoo.com | 603.312.0629 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | Yes (3m) |
| Themea, Neil | speechjake@gmail.com | 603.361.6160 | A Member of the Public | New Hampshire Speech, Language and Hearing Association | Oppose | Yes (15m) |
| Gildea, Rebecca | rebecca@thesonatinacenter.com | 603.397.8113 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | Yes (0m) |
| Scott, Marissa | marissa@thesonatinacenter.com | 603.978.4857 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | Yes (0m) |
| McGhee, Kat | Kat.mcgee@leg.state.nh.us | 617.791.3166 | An Elected Official | my constituent | Support | Yes (0m) |
| Chesterley, Victoria | vchesterleyslp@gmail.com | 603.566.3233 | A Member of the Public | New Hampshire Speech-Language-Hearing Association | Oppose | Yes (0m) |
| Scott, Barbara | scott_ryan@comcast.net | 603.644.4548 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| birse, cynthia | cynbirse@birchtreecenter.org | 603.957.1605 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Brown, Angela | angela_f_brown@yahoo.com | 603.466.2578 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Oppose | No |
| Santos, Melissa | mpierce5@une.edu | 508.527.8811 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Peterson, Graham | gepeterson95@gmail.com | 603.767.7020 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Mennella, Alexandra | amennella1@protonmail.com | 646.610.9858 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Oppose | No |
| Appleby, Stephen | stephen.appleby@doe.nh.gov | 603.271.2408 | State Agency Staff | Myself | Neutral | No |
| Stevens, Kate | kate.mk.stevens@gmail.com | 610.348.3396 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Bennett, Deborah | debbieslp@mac.com | 603.491.2941 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Oppose | No |
| Greene, Bob | bob.greene@leg.state.nh.us | 603.880.3929 | An Elected Official | Myself | Oppose | No |
| Favreau, Shyloh | shytoheloh@gmail.com | 828.964.8404 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Bloom, Krystal | kcbloom.mt@gmail.com | 603.496.4611 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Young, Sarah | slyoung10@comcast.net | 603.540.8217 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Laine, Shannon | shannonlaine.mtbc@gmail.com | 603.689.6250 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Stowell, Victoria | victoria.annette91@gmail.com | 603.991.8908 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Stone, Andrew | gsdguenter@gmail.com | 603.545.8677 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Scott, Greg | sct.greg@gmail.com | 603.502.1102 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Parsons, Hayley | hayley@sys-nh.org | 603.817.1392 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Henriquez, M Diane | dhenriquez@straffordcap.org | 603.534.0511 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Corbin, Alexis | athorner22@gmail.com | 603.312.7713 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Bernier, David | dabernier@communitypartnersnh.org | 603.516.9378 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Ostroff, Sam | sostroff@comcast.net | 603.793.2500 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Knapp, Stephanie | smossocrop@gmail.com | 978.846.2225 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Rawding-Anderson, Patti | prawdinganderson@reachforhetopnh.org | 603.740.3534 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Messina, Laura | Messinanc@gmail.com | 603.508.0043 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Gladstone, Jacqueline | jack72977@yahoo.com | 603.834.0517 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Somogyi, Robert | robert.somogyi@comcast.net | 603.472.5165 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Baldoumas, Kristin | kay@thesonatinacenter.com | 603.264.6176 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Berry, Jake | jberry@new-futures.org | 603.493.8781 | A Lobbyist | New Futures | Support | No |
| Doris, Madeleine | madeleinegabrielle97@gmail.com | 603.247.9784 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Crosby, Margaret | Ptaylor0925@yahoo.com | 3436148 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Deguzis, Crystal | Cmpslp09@gmail.com | 603.475.1348 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Lachance, Katlynn | Katlynnpoulin@gmail.com | 603.918.8447 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Armstrong, Caitlin | caitlin.speech@gmail.com | 603.834.5442 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Oppose | No |
| Roberge, Tammy | troberge9905@gmail.com | 503.380.5589 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Ostroff, Monika | mostroff@comcast.net | 603.793.2114 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|------------------------|---|---------|----|
| Dungelman, Matthew | mdungelman@gmail.com | 603.738.5319 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Laliberte, Sharon | sharondlaliberte@gmail.com | 603.742.0926 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Duggan, Jodi | JLDuggan@gmail.com | 603.292.5030 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Harper, Madison | maddiejharper@gmail.com | 603.845.7951 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Judd, Ryan | ryan@therhythmtree.com | 603.793.1941 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Grazier, Russell | russ@pmaconline.org | 603.380.0824 | A Member of the Public | Portsmouth Music and Arts Center (PMAC) | Support | No |
| Schleifer, Erin | emschleifer@gmail.com | 617.999.3549 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Chase, Wendy | wendy.chase@leg.state.nh.us | 603.319.7259 | An Elected Official | Myself | Support | No |
| King, Michele | michele.king@yahoo.com | 603.770.3909 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| King, Michael | Kingofepping@yahoo.com | 603.770.3909 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| King, Morgan | King.morganml@gmail.com | 603.770.6465 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Kosta, Michaela | Michaela.kosta29@gmail.com | 603.275.6409 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Lundin, Shannon | slundin.perc@gmail.com | 603.320.4117 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Minelli, Kelli | Kelli.minelli@yahoo.com | 603.277.0040 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Ciaglo, Christopher | Ciagloc93@gmail.com | 860.938.4124 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Stoffel, Trystan | tstoffel@meca.edu | 603.748.9031 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| McCormack, Colleen | Colleenemccormack11@gmail.com | 603.244.8631 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Sable, Katelyn | skatelyn039@gmail.com | 603.794.4191 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| DeMaio, Christina | chdemaio@gmail.com | 203.807.5187 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Olsen, Katie | Olsen.musictherapy@icloud.com | 860.221.4068 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Berry, Patrick | trick39berry@hotmail.com | 978.882.1870 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Wood, Keryonna | keryonna.wood@gmail.com | 603.309.6771 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Boyle-Wight, Carla | Carla.boylewight@gmail.com | 207.890.8783 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Duras, Brandon | Brandonduras921@gmail.com | 603.718.4432 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Rousseau, Holly | hrousseau@mansd.org | 603.483.2814 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Koehn, Kama | kamakoehn@gmail.com | 228.257.3435 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Vallone, Christine | nhatlasman@comcast.net | 603.770.9409 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Dugas, Danielle | Ddugas@mansd.org | 603.303.9503 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| St Denis, Elizabeth | eastdenis@gmail.com | 603.491.3132 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Rathbun, Eric | ericrathbun@gmail.com | 860.912.3751 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Curtis, Kathryn | katecampinehurst@gmail.com | 603.809.6109 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Ammon, Keith | keithammon@gmail.com | 603.325.0083 | An Elected Official | Myself | Oppose | No |
| Gendron, Valerie | Jvgendron@comcast.net | 603.315.5531 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Herlihy, Wesley | irishpridewjh@hotmail.com | 978.518.0164 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Gericke, Carla | carlagericke@gmail.com | 917.607.4353 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Oppose | No |
| Iwaskiewicz, Laura | Laura.iwask@gmail.com | 603.548.4096 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Caiati, Tricia | triciacaiati@yahoo.com | 978.476.3443 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |
| Wied, Alex | gencourt.nh@centromere.net | 603.674.6202 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Oppose | No |
| Beene, Holly | holly.beene@yahoo.com | 682.225.2425 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Oppose | No |
| Boyle-Wight, Patricia | Pboylewight@gmail.com | 207.357.7048 | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No |

Testimony



HOUSE COMMITTEE RESEARCH OFFICE
New Hampshire House of Representatives
4th Floor, Legislative Office Building
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 271-3600

Pam Smarling, Senior Committee Researcher
(603) 271-3387; Pam.Smarling@leg.state.nh.us

To: Rep. Carol M. McGuire, Chairman, House Executive Departments and Administration Committee

From: Pam Smarling, Senior Committee Researcher
House Committee Research

Date: January 29, 2021

RE: HB 209, relative to the licensure and regulation of music therapists.

You asked:

What was the disposition of legislation filed in 2020 to require licensure for music therapists?

SUMMARY

HB 209 (2020) establishes the Music Therapy Governing Board in the Office of Allied Health Professionals for the licensure and regulation of practitioners of music therapy. The other professions regulated by this office are: athletic trainers, occupational therapists, recreational therapists, respiratory care practitioners, physical therapists, speech-language pathologists, and genetic counselors. Under the provisions of the bill, it is prohibited to use the title "music therapist" or a similar title or to practice music therapy in the state without a license.

HB 209 (2020) is very nearly identical to HB 1286 as amended by the House. The only differences between the two bills is a phrase in the 2020 bill that referred to the use funds appropriated in 2019 and the effective date.

2020 Legislative Session

HB 1286, relative to the licensure and regulation of music therapists.

Sponsors: Rep. McGhee, Rep. St. John, Rep. Grossman, Rep. Read

House Action

Referred to: House ED&A Committee

House Hearing: January 16, 2020

Summary of Testimony

A number of music therapists and citizens who have used the services of music therapists spoke in favor of this bill. They described the benefits of music therapy, especially to help developmentally disabled or autistic children. They felt that licensure would increase the likelihood that music therapists would be reimbursed by health insurance and lead to improved access to music therapy in the schools.

Two speech-language pathologists spoke in opposition to the bill. They felt that the definition of music therapy in the bill was too broad and would lead to confusion over which profession could use certain insurance billing codes.

Committee Report: Majority: Ought to Pass with Amendment
vote 14-5, Regular Calendar
Minority: Inexpedient to Legislate

Rep. Peter Schmidt for the Majority of Executive Departments and Administration. This bill, with the amendment, establishes a Music Therapy Governing Board in the Office of Allied Health Professionals for the licensure and regulation of practitioners of music therapy. In this time of growing concern regarding mental health care for our citizens, it is important that NH avail itself of all recognized treatment modalities. Although we already have accredited music therapists practicing in our state, they are significantly impeded in their outreach by being limited to private pay patients, since most insurance coverage requires licensed providers. The bill grants such licensure and creates regulation under the well-established allied health board model.

Rep. Carol McGuire for the Minority of Executive Departments and Administration. This bill is yet another attempt to gain a government stamp of approval for yet another tiny, self-defined profession. Music therapists are not qualified mental health professionals, as can be seen in their alignment with the allied health professions (recreational therapists, occupational therapists, athletic trainers, physical therapists, etc.) rather than the Board of Mental Health Practice. No evidence was presented that “unqualified” music therapists are a problem in New Hampshire, and creating a board for the 33 working at present is unjustified.

Committee Amendment:

- Replaced the entire bill
- Amended the definition of music therapy
- Revised the qualifications for licensure ***by removing requirements*** to:
 - be 18 years of age
 - hold a bachelor's degree or higher om music therapy
 - complete specified hours of clinical training
- Revised the qualifications for licensure ***by adding a provision referring*** to the criminal history background check requirement.
- Retained the following qualifications for licensure:
 - Complete application form
 - Pay required fees
 - Be in good standing based on a review of the applicant's music therapy licensure history in other jurisdictions
 - Provide proof of passing the examination for board certification
- Added an appropriation for a new classified position in the Office of Professional Licensing and Certification for Program Assistant II

Floor Action: Passed with Amendment, roll call 182-125

Senate Action

Introduced and Laid on the Table, June 16, 2020

Final Action Died on the Table in the Senate

If I can provide further information on this, please let me know.

January 30, 2021

Ms. Chairwoman and Members of the committee:

I am writing to you in response to opposition from The American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) to HB 209.

With any proposed change in occupational regulation, we understand that our peers in other rehabilitative professions may have questions. Acknowledging that you may hear opposition statements today from representatives of these professions, I would like to take the opportunity to alleviate any concerns and demonstrate the good faith efforts we have made over the past several years, in New Hampshire and nationally to reach compromises within bill language so that consumers benefit from the collaborative and interdisciplinary team approach that exists among our professions at the clinical level.

The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) and The American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) have been working together at the national level for several years to create agreed upon language as Music Therapists pursue licensure in states across the country. Our bill already includes language within the music therapy definition that has been adopted in other states, and which was specifically received from the speech-language and hearing professional organization.

When music therapy licensure was introduced in the 2020 legislative session, we had very thorough discussions regarding the language of the bill over several subcommittee hearings during which representatives from both ASHA and the OPLC were present. This subcommittee included some of the representatives meeting with us today, including Chairwoman McGuire, Representative Schmitt, Representative Fellows and Representative Grote. We proposed and agreed to amend the bill to use the current agreed upon language between ASHA and AMTA which includes 111 words requested by ASHA. However, the subcommittee, the House of Representatives, and specifically Chair McGuire, felt that the addition of the language overly complicated the bill and voted to simplify the bill language. The subcommittee then proposed simplified bill language, reflective of existing licensed allied health RSA language. The language in HB209 is the product of these subcommittee discussions, ultimately passing through the House of Representatives on March 13, 2020.

Given that there will be no subcommittee meetings in this session, I ask that you recognize my statement as a gesture of good faith and commitment to continue collaborations with other licensed allied health professionals during the remainder of our legislative process and vote yes for HB 209.

Sincerely,



Marissa Scott, MA, MT-BC
Chair, State Task Force for Music Therapy Advocacy
Board-Certified Music Therapist
The Sonatina Center, LLC

Thank you, Chairwoman McGuire and members of the Executive Departments and Administration (ED&A) for having us here today for the hearing of HB209 FN, a bill that was improved by ED&A subcommittee last session and ready to pass into law when COVID19 had its way with it beyond the wall.

I'm Representative Kat McGhee of Hillsborough 27, Hollis and I am the prime sponsor on the bill, which has a twin-bill on the Senate side, sponsored by Senator Avard. Senator Avard and I have discussed our support for this legislation and therefore, I would ask that you consider it to be a non-partisan bill.

Although there are experts who will provide testimony relative to both the Music Therapy profession and the need for licensure to delineate what a qualified music therapist is, and is not, I would like to simply address the nuts and bolts of what music therapy is, and what the bill would do.

What is Music Therapy

Music therapy is an allied health profession similar to physical, occupational, or speech therapy. A Board Certified Music Therapist utilizes music based activities to address social, emotional, physical, communicative, and cognitive domains on an individualized basis. Research in music therapy supports its effectiveness in many areas such as: overall physical rehabilitation and facilitating movement, increasing people's avenues for communication that can be helpful to those who find it difficult to express themselves in words. Research in music therapy supports its effectiveness in many areas such as: overall physical rehabilitation and facilitating movement, increasing people's motivation to become engaged in their treatment, providing emotional support for clients and their families, and providing an outlet for expression of feelings. Examples of music-based activities include: songwriting and lyric analysis, instrument playing, music and movement, and/or improvisation. Music therapists work with all populations, including behavioral health, military populations, Autism Spectrum Disorder and other Developmental Disabilities, Alzheimer's Disease, persons in correctional and forensic facilities, in response to crisis and trauma, within medical settings, and in collaboration with music educators and other team collaborations

On a personal note, a family member of ours suffered a severe spinal cord injury this past summer and as an 18 year old, his prospects for a life confined to a wheel chair was devastating. Spaulding Rehabilitation recommended Music Therapy for its proven effects in aiding with nerve induced injuries to the spinal cord. I would submit to you that all therapies are not alike, and that acknowledging the value of music therapy is simply a matter of learning more about its worth to those in need.

RSA 328:F governing Allied Health Professions would be modified to include licensed music therapist in accordance with the language that was modified by members of this House committee. First and foremost, that is the aim – to recognize this well-established profession in the State of New Hampshire for the therapeutic benefits it provides and to allow health providers to include this form of therapy in their allied health professionals list, for the purposes of insurance reimbursement.

In the last session, when I learned about the objections of the chair to the idea of adding qualified forms of therapy to the approved insurance systems lists, I really did not know how to respond to her concern that this would make insurance costs go up. However, it appears that having the option of a particular modality does not mean a patient uses more services, but merely that they have the freedom to choose the appropriate modality, depending upon their particular condition. In this way, music therapy has been proven to work in cases where other therapies do not, and these results are scientifically based – it's not merely someone playing a guitar or recorded music without goal-setting and purposeful expertise behind it. It is supporting a trained therapist in defining a treatment plan that leverages the power of music to meet patients where they are, to achieve specific goals against stubborn impediments.

The Fiscal Note mentions the costs associated with having to add a person who administers this program for the state. There would be an offset to that cost based upon the existing and future licensure fees, collected every two years, that would contribute to the cost of Music Therapy Licensure Administration. I believe an objection to this salary should be met with the understanding that the other salaries now paid, for other Allied Health professions, are no more worthy than Music Therapy.

If you have any questions of me, I'm happy to attempt to answer them. Otherwise, I would pass the baton to Licensed music Therapist, Marissa Scott for the next portion of the presentation.

Thank you for your time.



Frank Edelblut
Commissioner

Christine M. Brennan
Deputy Commissioner

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
101 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301
TEL. (603) 271-3495
FAX (603) 271-1953

January 13, 2020

Dear New Hampshire School Superintendents:

As you know, New Hampshire schools take pride in providing personalized solutions for all students to meet their needs in a variety of ways. Music therapy is one such research-based service that shows many benefits for students.

Music therapy is a related service under the IDEA, similar to physical, speech, or occupational therapy. An increasing number of school districts are recognizing the effectiveness of music therapy, and at least twenty school districts currently contract music therapy related services throughout the state of New Hampshire.

Music therapy can be an integral component in supporting the child with special needs to attain educational goals identified by his/her IEP team. A Board Certified Music Therapist designs music-based activities that address a variety of non-musical goals. Working in either a group or individual setting, a music therapist will address motor, communication, social, emotional, and cognitive goals.

Music therapy's research base is promising. Numerous studies show positive improvements in a person's ability to modulate attention, emotion, cognition, behavior, and communication. Current studies are exploring the specific attributes of music therapy that lead to these positive outcomes.

Highly trained professionals (as well as musicians), music therapists are Board Certified. In the state of New Hampshire, there are currently 33 Board Certified Music Therapists working with infants, children, teens and adults in schools, hospitals, assisted living facilities, addiction recovery centers, and other educational, medical, and community settings. For more information, or to find a music therapist in your area, visit www.musictherapy.org or www.cbmt.org

Points for 2021 Bill Session

MT RESPONSE TO COVID-19

- $\frac{2}{3}$ of Board Certified Music Therapists have added telehealth as a service delivery option
 - This allows for continuity of services, during a time when much is up in the air
 - Enhanced therapeutic outcomes, improved family involvement in their loved ones' progress
- Clients respond favorably to telepractice music therapy, in some cases more so than in-person sessions
- Family members are more involved during sessions, seeing more change in their loved ones because of the increased involvement in sessions
- Music therapists are supporting co-workers in in-patient and residential settings
 - Increased joy and gratitude for the connections made and maintained through shared musical experiences, especially during a period of increased isolation and stress
- Music therapists have adapted the delivery of services as well as diversified service options to meet the needs that have emerged following the start of the COVID-19 pandemic
 - Continues to benefit consumers, family members, and healthcare providers
 - Access to music therapy services should continue to be supported through:
 - Existing financial structures and emerging funding options
 - Music therapy services should be considered when identifying potential pandemic-related treatment and support services

INCREASING ACCESS TO SERVICES

- Documented growth of field in the state - licensure makes sense now before too large
- Medicaid won't cover services - because of the lack of state licensure - this inhibits anyone with medicaid/medicare from receiving beneficial services.
- If we had a state license - roughly 13.6% of the NH population would be authorized for coverage under Medicaid
- People turned away or on sliding fee multiplied by 40 = number of potential people we could service.

What is Music Therapy

Music therapy is an allied health profession similar to physical, occupational, or speech therapy. A Board Certified Music Therapist utilizes music based activities to address social, emotional, physical, communicative, and cognitive domains on an individualized basis. Research in music therapy supports its effectiveness in many areas such as: overall physical rehabilitation and facilitating movement, increasing people's avenues for communication that can be helpful to those who find it difficult to express themselves in words. Research in music therapy supports its effectiveness in many areas such as: overall physical rehabilitation and facilitating movement, increasing people's motivation to become engaged in their treatment, providing emotional support for clients and their families, and providing an outlet for expression of feelings. Examples of music-based activities include: songwriting and lyric analysis, instrument playing, music and movement, and/or improvisation. Music therapists work with all populations, including behavioral health, military

populations, Autism Spectrum Disorder and other Developmental Disabilities, Alzheimer's Disease, persons in correctional and forensic facilities, in response to crisis and trauma, within medical settings, and in collaboration with music educators and other team collaborations.

Training & Education of A Music Therapist

Music therapists are currently trained at the Bachelors, Masters, or equivalency level. After successful completion of required coursework, as well as a minimum 1,200 hour internship field experience, the music therapist must sit for a national examination offered by the Certification Board for Music Therapists. All Music Therapists must pass this examination, earning the credential MT-BC (Music Therapist, Board Certified) and are required to complete 100 hours of continuing education credits every five years.

Why Do MTs need a license?

- a. Increasing access to services (Medicaid/IEP)
- b. Protecting the public
- c. To address confusion between music therapists and other professionals

4. Impact of MT Response During COVID

NH is a largely rural state - COVID has proven our reliability and ability to provide virtual services - this enables us to reach individuals in rural communities and ensure that those services are being provided by a qualified professional



ASHA
American
Speech-Language-Hearing
Association

Submitted via email: HouseExecutiveDepartmentsandAdministration@leg.state.nh.us

January 29, 2021

The Honorable Carol McGuire
Chair, Executive Departments and Administration Committee
New Hampshire House of Representatives
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 209 – Licensure and Regulation of Music Therapists

Dear Chairwoman McGuire:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I write in opposition to House Bill 209 (HB 209), relative to the licensure and regulation of music therapists, as written.

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 211,000 members and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists; speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology support personnel; and students. Over 980 ASHA members reside in New Hampshire.¹

ASHA maintains that although a music therapist may treat an individual with a communication disorder, music therapists are not qualified to treat the communication disorder itself, which falls under the scope of practice of a speech-language pathologist (SLP). Therefore, ASHA requests that the definition of the practice of music therapy be amended as follows:

The practice of music therapy does not include the screening, diagnosis, or assessment of any physical, mental, or communication disorder or treatment of a communication disorder. The services of a music therapist shall not replace the services of an audiologist or speech-language pathologist.

ASHA also requests that the following provisions be added to the definition on “music therapy”, section (g):

Music therapists shall collaborate with and discuss the music therapy treatment plan with the audiologist or speech-language pathologist of a client with a communication disorder.

Speech-Language Pathologists: Professionals Trained to Assess and Treat Communication Disorders

SLPs are uniquely educated and trained to assess and treat speech, language, swallowing, and cognitive communication disorders in children and adults. These services help children acquire language and enable people to recover essential skills to communicate about their health and safety, to swallow adequate nutrition safely, and to have sufficient attention, memory, and organizational skills to function in their environment.

SLPs complete a comprehensive education program that meets rigorous standards of practice based on objective methodology, which includes the following:²

- A master’s or doctoral degree with **75 semester credit hours in a course of study addressing the knowledge and skills pertinent to the field of speech-language pathology, as determined, validated, and systematically updated using a skills validation process.**
- A minimum of 400 clock hours of supervised **clinical** experience in the practice of speech-language pathology, with supervision provided by individuals holding the ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC).
- A passing score, determined by a cut score analysis, on a national examination administered and validated by the Educational Testing Service.
- Completion of a supervised Clinical Fellowship to meet the requirements of the CCC, the recognized standard in the field.
- State licensure (SLPs are regulated in all 50 states and the District of Columbia).
- Completion of 30 hours of professional development activities every three years.

Music Therapy vs. Speech-Language Pathology Training Program

Although the American Music Therapy Association’s scope of practice for music therapy was revised in 2015, it did not address the treatment of communication disorders.³ The scope of practice continues to indicate that music therapists are qualified to treat communication disorders.

Below is a comparison of core courses and electives for entry-level SLPs and entry-level music therapists that are specific to areas of communication. SLPs undergo rigorous training across all aspects of communication as they earn their master’s degree. Although training programs vary among universities, a typical master’s program includes the option to take the courses indicated below. **The core training for music therapy, which requires only a bachelor’s degree to treat communicative and cognitive disorders, is minimal, provides only an overview of communication disorders, and does not address specific treatment standards and methods.**

Core Course Comparisons

| Topic Area | Speech-Language Pathologists | Music Therapists |
|-----------------|---|--|
| Language | Option to take courses in 25 different areas, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • psychology of language • linguistics • language disorders of children • aphasia • developmental neuroscience • phonological development and disorders • clinical phonology • language acquisition • disorders of speech sounds | Introduction to speech and hearing process disorders |

| Topic Area | Speech-Language Pathologists | Music Therapists |
|-----------------------------|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> communication for individuals with autism | |
| Cognitive Assessment | Option to take courses in 18 different areas, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> developmental language disorders neurogenic disorders of language language training language of school-age children degenerative disorders medical speech-language pathology | Introduction to speech and hearing process disorders |
| Swallowing | Option to take courses in 20 different areas, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> craniofacial disorders dysphagia head and neck cancer motor speech disorders communication disorders in children with medical and developmental needs neuroscience speech science | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to speech and hearing process disorders Anatomy and physiology |

States Respond to Legislation for Music Therapists

The State of Washington rejected proposed regulations for music therapy, while Arizona and Indiana have opposed legislation to certify and license music therapists in their state. Below is a summary of each state's response.

Washington State Sunrise Review

In December 2012, the Washington State Department of Health completed its sunrise report on the proposed regulation of music therapists.⁴ ASHA believes that this information may be useful to illustrate why licensing music therapists is not needed.

Washington music therapists had indicated that the regulation of their profession was necessary to protect the public from misuse of terms and techniques; ensure competent practice; protect access to music therapy services by encouraging payment by third-party payers; recognize music therapy as a valid, research-based health care service; validate the profession in state, national, and international work settings; establish credentialing; and provide a method of addressing consumer complaints and ethics violations.

The Department found that the regulations of music therapists did not meet the sunrise criteria based on the following:

- The applicant had not identified a clear and easily recognizable threat to public health and safety from the unregulated practice of music therapy.
- The proposal did not articulate the public need for regulation or that regulation would ensure initial and continuing professional ability above the current requirements for nationally certified music therapists.

- The applicant did not demonstrate that the public cannot be effectively protected by other means in a more cost-beneficial manner.
- The proposal would place a heavy financial burden on the small pool of potential music therapy practitioners to cover the state's costs of regulating the profession.
- The proposal contains flaws that would prohibit the use of music-based therapy by other practitioners as well as Native American and other traditional healers who may use music to aid the sick, injured, or dying.

Arizona and Indiana Opposition

Both former Arizona Governor Jan Brewer and former Indiana Governor Mike Pence vetoed legislation to certify and license music therapists.

In former Governor Brewer's veto message, she indicated that the legislation for state certification would fail, "to grant even the most basic oversight authority to the state agency that is charged with issuing the certificates," and that, "there is an expectation from the public that the certificate holder or licensee is subject to a certain level of oversight."⁵

Former Governor Pence chose to veto the bill introduced in Indiana because he did not believe that music therapy certification would create new opportunities for employment.⁶

Thank you for your consideration of ASHA's position and requested amendment to HB 209. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Susan Adams, ASHA's director, state legislative and regulatory affairs, at sadams@asha.org.

Sincerely,



A. Lynn Williams, PhD, CCC-SLP
2021 ASHA President

¹ American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (2020) *New Hampshire (Quick Facts)*.

<https://www.asha.org/siteassets/uploadedfiles/New-Hampshire-State-Flyer.pdf>.

² American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (n.d.). *2020 Standards and Implementation Procedures for the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology*. <https://www.asha.org/Certification/2020-SLP-Certification-Standards/>.

³ American Music Therapy Association. (2015). *Scope of Music Therapy Practice*. https://www.musictherapy.org/about/scope_of_music_therapy_practice/.

⁴ Washington State Department of Health. (2012). *Music Therapy Sunrise Review*. <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/2000/MusicTherapy.pdf>.

⁵ Arizona State Legislature. (2013). *Re: Senate Bill 1437 (music therapists; licensure)*. <https://www.azleg.gov/govLettr/51leg/1R/SB1437.PDF>.

⁶ NUVO Inc. (2013). *Pence vetoes occupational licensing*. https://www.nuvo.net/news/news/pence-vetoes-occupational-licensing/article_0757a5e0-e446-5834-b810-baea2e09fc13.html.



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Ms. Chairwoman, members of the Committee, my name is Cacia King, representing music therapists from NH. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today on the subject of House Bill 209 relative to the Licensure and Regulation of Music Therapists.

I am a board certified music therapist, working in NH, and an adjunct professor of music therapy at Anna Maria College, in Worcester, MA. I grew up singing for the veterans community of New Hampshire, and saw the impact music had on others. When I decided on going to college for music therapy, I discovered that New Hampshire does not have any music therapy degree programs in the state. My intention was always to come back home and serve my community, as I had learned so much from the musicians and music educators in my state, and wanted to give back.

Going through college, I got to know other students from different areas. I assumed that after college, we would all move back to our home states and begin our careers, but I was mistaken. I learned that many people relocate to their college towns or the state that their college was in, and do not choose to go back to their home communities.

After college, students often relocate to new places, but according to research done by Economic Modeling, state university graduates are most likely to permanently live within state lines, and 40% of those students live within 50 miles of their alma mater. Students who attend private or elite colleges tend to move to large cities, and tend to move farther away from where they grew up.

Prospective music therapists from New Hampshire are required to relocate for their education, and often, do not come back. It is clear that there is a need for music therapy services in our state, and who would be better at addressing those needs than people born and raised in New Hampshire.

New Hampshire is lucky to be home to three competitive state universities that reach all areas of our state. The University of New Hampshire is one of only nine universities in the country that is a Land, Sea, and Space Grant Institution, making it a unique university. According to studies of college students' migration trends done by Economic Modeling, graduates from New Hampshire universities tend to stay within the New England region, and many stay within the counties they were educated in.

In 2014, Rhode Island passed a music therapy licensure bill, similar to HB 209. The University of Rhode Island accepted its first class of music therapy students, which began studying in the fall of 2020.

While there are currently no music therapy degree programs within the state of New Hampshire, we know that with the NH HB 209 bill passed, new opportunities in the state will be opened for practitioners and patients, but we hope in the years to come that young people will have the opportunity to study in their

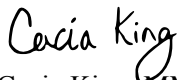
home state and bring their knowledge and experience to their communities.

Along with access and improved awareness of music therapy, will come a need for qualified practitioners. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the job growth outlook for counselors and social service specialists is 14% in the next five years, and 25% more mental healthcare therapists and providers will be needed in the coming years, which greatly exceeds the average 4% growth for other fields. The need for music therapists in New Hampshire will only continue to grow, and along with that need will come a need for affordable access to care, which is rarely fulfilled through grant and scholarship funding.

My clients greatly benefit from the unique modality of music therapy, and many of them benefit from yearly grant funding or scholarships to pay for services. Often, families are challenged to stretch their funding so they do not have to discontinue services. Although my clients often have adequate healthcare coverage, music therapy cannot be covered due to lack of practitioner licensure. As music therapists who have met all of the requirements by our national governing boards, state licensure is the last barrier that stands between our clients getting the services they need, provided to them for a reasonable fee, through their health insurance.

In closing, I ask that you vote YES for NH HB 209. Establishing a music therapy license in New Hampshire will allow more consumers to access music therapy services, will continue the growth of job opportunities in the state, and hopefully will increase education opportunities for future music therapists. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Cacia King, MM, MT-BC
Board Certified Music Therapist

Resource

How Your School Affects Where You Live. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.economicmodeling.com/how-your-school-affects-where-you-live/>

Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, and Mental Health Counselors : Occupational Outlook Handbook. (2020, September 01). Retrieved from <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/substance-abuse-behavioral-disorder-and-mental-health-counselors.htm>

February 1, 2021

Re: HB 209: Relative to the licensure and regulation of music therapists

Dear Chairwoman and members of the Committee,

My name is Heather Young and I live in Rochester with my husband and my two children. I am asking you to support HB209, relative to the licensure and regulation of music therapists.

My son, Lucas, is ten years old and has been involved with music therapy his whole life! Lucas is an active boy who loves basketball, making people laugh and anything to do with music. He has been through a significant amount of medical procedures during his short life with more than 40+ procedures. While in the hospital, music therapy was always the thing that gave us his first smile coming out of anesthesia. Music therapy helped him take his first steps following his tracheostomy procedure when he was sedated for more than 2 weeks in a medical induced coma. We saw such great progress with music therapy in the hospital setting, we were committed to doing whatever we needed to in order for this to become part of his weekly services.

Lucas receives occupational/ physical/ and speech therapy for multiple sessions each week, both privately and in the school setting. These are all therapies that are covered by his medical insurance. The therapy he makes the most progress in is his weekly sessions of music therapy that are unfortunately, not a covered benefit. Despite this being medically necessary for his overall development, it is not seen as a licensed profession and therefore, his insurance will not cover it.

If we could get music therapy as a covered benefit through his insurance, we could essentially decrease some of the other therapies he gets as music therapy has been more effective than some of the others he receives multiple times each week. Currently we have to pay out of pocket for this essential service. Lucas has been at risk multiple times of losing this therapy service as the costs continue to be hard for a family to pay.

We have been committed to paying out of pocket for the 4+ years that he has been working with the same music therapist. The cost, however, is unsustainable as a family long-term and the passage of HB209 will help Lucas and others receive these essential services to help his/their overall growth and development.

Please support HB209.

Sincerely,

Heather Young
603-312-0629



PLEASE SUPPORT

HB 209

Legislation to License

New Hampshire Music Therapists

WHAT IS MUSIC THERAPY?

Music therapy is the clinical and evidence-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals for people of all ages and ability levels within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program (Scope of Music Therapy Practice, 2015). In other words, music therapists in NH are skilled in understanding the relationship between music and the brain/body and using this knowledge to achieve functional outcomes and improve quality of life for Granite Staters.

WHAT IS HB 209?

HB 209 is legislation that will provide licensure for board-certified music therapists.

CONTACT:

Questions? Contact
Marissa Scott, MA, MT-BC
nhmusictherapytaskforce
@gmail.com

WHY ARE WE ASKING YOU TO SUPPORT HB 209?

- **Granite Staters Can More Easily Access Music Therapy Services:** States outline qualifications for employment and inclusion in state programs. State licensure will help ensure that New Hampshire citizens have access to music therapy services by personnel who are trained, equipped, held to high standards of ethics and professional practice, and demonstrate competency through board certification and continuing education activity.
- **To Protect Consumers:** Ensures protection for the public by requiring individuals to meet national standards if individuals present themselves as music therapists.
- **State Regulations Often Require Official State Recognition:** In programs with state oversight such as special education, Medicaid waiver funding, and even private insurance, regulations often require a form of official “state recognition” of a credential in order to support professional services.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF HB 209



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Ms. Chairwoman, members of the Committee, my name is Marissa Scott and I speak to you today not only as chair of the State Task Force for Music Therapy Advocacy, but also as female business owner, mother of four, and citizen of the community. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today on the subject of House Bill 209 relative to the Licensure and Regulation of Music Therapists.

Music therapy is a health-care profession recognized by the National Institutes of Health, the American Medical Association and the Department of Education. Music therapists are nationally credentialed professionals, providing clinical, evidence-based services to individuals of all ages and abilities. The education and training of a music therapist is comprehensive and rigorous, including collegiate level music, psychology, social and behavioral science studies as well as 1200+ supervised clinical fieldwork hours in multiple settings.

As chair of the NH music therapy task force, I am one of many music therapists in the country working to advocate for our services and improve access for consumers. Through advocacy efforts, eight states have established a music therapy license in the past 10 years (Georgia, New Jersey, New York, Nevada, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Virginia) and 2 states have established a music therapy registry or state certification in the last 12 years (Utah and Wisconsin). Fifteen states, including New Hampshire, are in motion to introduce legislation to recognize music therapy education, clinical training, and credentialing qualifications in 2021. A state license for music therapy aligns New Hampshire with active movements across the country: recognizing and validating the music therapy profession with other allied health professions.

As the business owner of a music therapy center, I can attest that we provide music therapy services to more than 2500 individuals in NH including children, teens, and adults. Our clients seek our services because they have tried other therapies and they are seeking an alternative. They come to us in need of help to work on individualized goals in areas such as emotion, regulation, sensory integration, and self-expression. Additionally we provide them with opportunities for improving self-esteem, promoting a positive sense of self-worth, supporting their development, addressing rehabilitative needs and enhancing their wellbeing. At The Sonatina Center, we employ five board certified music therapists including myself. The growth of our practice directly correlates to an increasing number of jobs that we have been able to offer in our community.

I would like to highlight two important points as to why this committee should support a state license for board-certified music therapists: First, increasing consumer access to services, and second, protecting consumers from harm.

As a board-certified music therapist, I have observed first hand the impact that music therapy has in medical, educational, and aging settings. Thinking of our clients at the Sonatina Center, I've watched how the therapeutic relationship built in music therapy sessions has helped a child with selective mutism verbalize and build meaningful relationships with peers. I've helped a child with cerebral palsy strengthen motor skills, moving from grasping a drum mallet to grasping a spoon to feed himself independently. Music therapy has given a teen with anxiety and depression a safe and supportive place to express himself. Through the combination of a therapeutic relationship and songwriting interventions, his work in music therapy has ceased and prevented him

from continuing acts of self-harm.

Unfortunately, many individuals seeking our services face bureaucratic barriers that prevent them from accessing music therapy services and have at times caused them to lose music therapy services. You see, when a health-care provider seeks to submit reimbursement claims from a private insurance company, there is a requirement on the credentialing form to provide the providers license number. After hundreds of phone calls to Anthem, Blue Cross & Blue Shield, Aetna, United Behavioral Health, and Cigna to name a few, I have personally been told again and again and again that we cannot bypass this request for a license number. We cannot be contracted “In-Network” providers and their insurance plans will not cover our therapy sessions because our profession is not regulated at the state level and we do not have this required state license. Yet referrals from pediatricians, neurologists and other doctors who know the efficacy and benefits of music therapy services for their patients continue to come in and these patients in need are not able to access our services. Doctor referrals are what dictate medically necessary services, yet in NH, it doesn’t matter if a doctor has said our services are medically necessary, because we don’t have the licensing credentials required by private insurance plans.

Similarly, a large percentage of people who would greatly benefit from our services have NH Medicaid. In fact, according to the December 2020 data, there are 27,428 severely disabled youth, adults, and elderly enrolled in Medicaid¹ who are not able to access our services simply because we can not be considered as providers without a state license. This number doesn’t even include children who have experienced abuse, neglect and trauma and have been placed in foster care.

We are not here today to ask that you advocate for the music therapy profession to private or state insurance organizations, or even get involved in the processes of reimbursement. While billing medical health plans and insurance companies is not the ultimate intent of this legislation, it is imperative that you understand the barriers your NH consumers are facing while trying to access our clinically effective and medically necessary services.

As for my second point, it can be difficult to understand how music can cause harm, but allow me to elaborate. Music therapists are trained to independently observe and respond to client non-verbal, verbal, psychological and physiological responses to music and non-music stimuli. The music therapist implements ongoing evaluation of client responses and adapts interventions accordingly in order to be clinically effective and refrain from contra-indicated practices.

The use of live music interventions demands that the therapist not only possess the knowledge and skills of a trained therapist, but also the unique abilities of an accomplished musician in order to manipulate the music therapy intervention to fit the clients’ needs. Given the diversity of diagnosis with which music therapists work and the practice settings in which they work independently, clinical training and experience are necessary. Individuals attempting to provide music therapy treatment interventions without formalized music therapy training and credentials may pose risks to clients. Examples may include, but are not limited to:

- the clinical use of a music stimulus that is too complex for one’s neurological system, which may cause increased agitation or dysregulation.
- The potential of music to trigger or elicit intense emotions, during which the lack of, or ineffective therapeutic response to, or processing of these emotions may lead to short term and/or long term social and psychological harm.

Contraindicated procedures may involve either the use of music or how the music is used that may harm the consumer. Some specific examples include working with clients who:

¹ “NH Medicaid Enrollment Trends and Geography: December 2020” *NH Department of Health and Human Services*, <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/ombp/medicaid/documents/medicaid-enrollment-12312020.pdf>. Accessed January 26, 2021.

- have musicogenic epilepsy, where a music stimulus can cause a seizure activity
- have Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia, where music can trigger severe states of anxiety, which can spread to other consumers if, for example, someone lives in a skilled nursing facility.
- are premature infants in the NICU, where music can easily provide too much stimulation, which results in stress behaviors and can impede the infant's ability to thrive
- have experienced trauma, where music has a direct connection to our emotional memories and can cause extreme emotional distress if it triggers a traumatic experience or memory

To protect the public from threats of harm in clinical practice, music therapists comply with safety standards and professional competencies including recognizing and responding to situations where there are clear and present dangers to a client and/or others, recognizing the potential of harm of music, verbal, and physical interventions during music experiences and using them with care, observing infection control protocols and recognizing the client populations and health conditions for which music experiences are contraindicated. Currently in NH, we have individuals claiming they provide music therapy services, yet they are not educated, clinically trained or board-certified and no one is regulating if they are complying with these safety standards. The creation of a state license requires that individuals meet both state and national standards when identifying themselves as music therapists and protects our most vulnerable and marginalized citizens.

In closing, I ask that you vote YES for NH HB 209. Establishing a music therapy license in New Hampshire will allow opportunities for more consumers to access music therapy services and protect consumers including our most vulnerable and marginalized citizens. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Marissa Scott, MA, MT-BC, CLD
Chair, State Task Force for Music Therapy Advocacy
Board Certified Music Therapist, Certified Labor Doula
The Sonatina Center, LLC

Nicole O'Malley
PO Box 5333
Wakefield, RI 02880

February 1, 2020

New Hampshire House Bill 209

Dear Members of the House Executive Departments and Administration Committee,

I am writing in to testify in support of HB 209.

My name is Nicole O'Malley. I am a board certified music therapist licensed in RI. I am the Government Relations Representative for the New England Region of the American Music Therapy Association and have remained the Task Force Chair in RI throughout the passing of legislation and licensure. I am also the founder and Executive Director of a Small NonProfit and the Director of a newly founded music therapy degree program at a state university. I have been practicing music therapy in the state of RI since 2003 and have seen significant growth, access to services for vulnerable populations, decreased harm, and state based collaborations since the passage of similar legislation in the state of RI. In addition, I am a caregiver of children with medical needs and have experienced the negative impact of well intended and misinformed individuals representing as music therapists firsthand.

Throughout the past ten years, I have had the privilege of working as a music therapist for a number of groups, individuals, families, and professionals. I have seen clients make incredible progress through music based interventions. I have seen clients struggle to receive or maintain this service regardless of progress being made by the client. I have also seen other individuals without a music therapy degree or certification represent as music therapists in prominent facilities unbeknownst to the facility/client.

As I am sure is made clear in other testimonies, 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, a six-month clinical training internship, and passing a national board exam. A qualified music therapist will hold the credential "MT-BC."

The passing of House Bill 209 would provide increased access to music therapy services, and aid in avoiding confusion over who is qualified to practice music therapy in the state of New Hampshire. This legislation would ensure protection for the public by requiring individuals to meet national standards if individuals present themselves as music therapists, and to provide state recognition to support the practice of music therapy services already received in New Hampshire.

In addition, our experience in RI indicates an increase in job opportunities due to increased recognition of the field along with increased access to services for vulnerable populations. Music therapists work with many vulnerable populations, offering protection to the states most vulnerable is necessary to mitigate risks and ensure harm is not caused.

In addition, legislation has also allowed RI to begin to explore insurance reimbursement (many insurance companies require licensure). This momentum has also led to the development of a degree program at a state university which would not have been possible (in RI) without licensure.

Thank you for considering my request in passing House Bill 209. Please contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Nicole O'Malley MA, MT-BC, NMT, LPMT
Neurologic Music Therapist – Board Certified
Licensed Professional Music Therapist
Executive Director Hands in Harmony
Assistant Clinical Professor University of Rhode Island
401-783-4810



New Hampshire Speech-Language-Hearing Association
PO Box 1538 Concord NH 03302-1538 nhslda@gmail.com

January 29, 2021

The Honorable Carol McGuire
Chair, Executive Departments and Administration Committee New Hampshire House of
Representatives
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 209 – Licensure and Regulation of Music Therapists

Dear Chairwoman McGuire:

I am writing on behalf of the New Hampshire Speech-Language-Hearing Association to express our opposition to HB 209, Licensure and Regulation of Music Therapists, as written. This bill does clarify the limits of a music therapist's scope of practice in "screening, diagnosis, or assessment of any physical, mental, or communication disorder" but it must be made clear that music therapy cannot replace speech-language therapy or audiology treatment for individuals with communication disorders. Speech-language pathology and audiology require extensive education and training in topics which are not included in the education and training of music therapists.

Incorporating music therapy and speech-language therapy into an individual's overall treatment plan can provide significant benefits to that individual if the administration of the therapies is well coordinated. Lack of coordination can be detrimental to the individual's progress.

The NH Speech-Language-Hearing Association opposes the bill as written but would support the bill if the additions suggested by ASHA were included. (additions underlined and in italics)

ASHA maintains that although a music therapist may treat an individual with a communication disorder, music therapists are not qualified to treat the communication disorder itself, which falls under the scope of practice of a speech-language pathologist (SLP). Therefore, ASHA requests that the definition of the practice of music therapy be amended as follows:

The practice of music therapy does not include the screening, diagnosis, or assessment of any physical, mental, or communication disorder or *treatment of a communication*

disorder. The services of a music therapist shall not replace the services of an audiologist or speech-language pathologist.*

ASHA also requests that the following provisions be added to the definition on "music therapy", section (g):

Music therapists shall collaborate with and discuss the music therapy treatment plan with the audiologist or speech-language pathologist of a client with a communication disorder.*

These changes would clarify the role of the music therapist as part of a multi-disciplinary treatment team as well as emphasizing the need for treatment coordination.

Sincerely,

Victoria Chesterley

Victoria Chesterley, MS, CCC-SLP
Past VP of Governmental Affairs,
New Hampshire Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Inc.

* Letter from ASHA President, A. Lynn Williams to the Honorable Carol McGuire
January 29, 2021



New Hampshire Speech-Language-Hearing Association
PO Box 1538 Concord NH 03302-1538 nhslda@gmail.com

February 3, 2021

The Honorable Carol McGuire
Chair, Executive Departments and Administration Committee New Hampshire House of
Representatives
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Re: HB 209 – Licensure and Regulation of Music Therapists

Dear Chairwoman McGuire and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to follow up on the hearing on HB 209 that occurred on Monday, February 1, 2021.

I am the Past VP of Governmental Affairs for the New Hampshire Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NHSLHA) and have served as President and Treasurer on the NHSLHA Executive Board. I also served two terms on the Advisory Council of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).

I have lived in Nashua since 1952 and before retirement, I was employed at Nashua Community College as the Director of the Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Program.

The objections that ASHA and NHSLHA have to HB 209 as written are based the need for clear professional boundaries.

The husband of a stroke survivor told me once that "Speech-language pathology is the most important thing that the general public knows nothing about." He was surprised that the decision to discharge his wife from the hospital would not be made by the neurologist, but by the speech-language pathologist, based on his wife's swallowing ability. SLPs treat swallowing disorders as well as communication disorders.

Due to the general lack of knowledge about the areas of expertise of speech-language pathologists, the lack of clear professional boundaries between music therapy's area of practice and that of speech-language pathologists will lead to confusion and possible harm to the public.

Music therapy is certainly a valuable service, but cannot take the place of treatment by a speech-language pathologist for individuals with communication disorders.

Adding the wording that music therapy cannot replace the services of a speech-language pathologist or audiologist does not reduce the music therapist's ability to treat, but does make clear that the professions offer separate and distinct services.

We are also asking that when the music therapist is treating an individual with a communication disorder, the music therapist will consult with the SLP. Collaboration with other professionals treating the same person is the cornerstone of interprofessional practice.

If the individual being treated by a music therapist were not receiving services from an SLP, there would be no necessity for consultation regarding that individual.

A search for studies on the efficacy of music therapy returned multiple articles on music therapy for mental health, addiction and pain reduction, but evidence for the use of music therapy in treating communication disorders is largely anecdotal. The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association has been publishing peer-reviewed studies on the assessment and treatment of speech, language and hearing disorders since 1936.

Adding the wording requested by ASHA to HB 209 (quoted from ASHA letter to the Committee dated January 29, 2021) would eliminate the NHSLHA's opposition to the bill:

ASHA maintains that although a music therapist may treat an individual with a communication disorder, music therapists are not qualified to treat the communication disorder itself, which falls under the scope of practice of a speech-language pathologist (SLP). Therefore, ASHA requests that the definition of the practice of music therapy be amended as follows:

The practice of music therapy does not include the screening, diagnosis, or assessment of any physical, mental, or communication disorder **or treatment of a communication disorder. The services of a music therapist shall not replace the services of an audiologist or speech-language pathologist.**

ASHA also requests that the following provisions be added to the definition on "music therapy", section (g):

Music therapists shall collaborate with and discuss the music therapy treatment plan with the audiologist or speech-language pathologist of a client with a communication disorder.

Sincerely,

Victoria Chesterley

Victoria Chesterley, MS, CCC-SLP

January 26, 2021

Ms. Chairwoman, members of the Committee, my name is Rebecca Gildea, I am a board certified music therapist and am representing the NH Music Therapy Advocacy Task Force and music therapists who live and work in our state. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today in support of House Bill 209 relative to the Licensure and Regulation of Music Therapists.

Today there are at least 40 music therapists working in the state of New Hampshire. That may sound like a small number, but the impact of just those 40 music therapists is significant. In 2019, New Hampshire music therapists worked in 67 different facilities, and served at least 2,841 individuals across the granite state in settings such as early intervention, special education, day programs, memory care, behavioral health units, eating disorder clinics, and substance use programs to name a few. Music therapists are uniquely trained and certified to work with clients in domains such as attention and cognition, attachment and socialization, emotional processing and expression, expressive and receptive communication, and mobility and physical rehabilitation. Music therapists use evidence-based practices to work toward each client-centered goal, supported through a body of research spanning decades. In a summary of systematic reviews, Kamioka et. al found that music therapy has proven efficacy in the global and social functioning for people with schizophrenia and serious mental disorders, improving gait and related activities in Parkinson's disease, reducing depressive symptoms, and improving sleep quality (2014). The positive effects of music therapy have also been peer reviewed and reported in journals such as

Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders
The journal of Vascular Access
Pediatric Nursing
Alternative Therapies in Health & Medicine
The Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgeon
The Arts in Psychotherapy
Journal of Advanced Nursing
Brain and Language

to name only a few. The field of music therapy also publishes their own body of research in two US based music therapy specific publications, The Journal of Music Therapy and Music Therapy Perspectives, as well as multiple world wide music therapy publications such as British, Canadian, Australian and Nordic journals of music therapy. The evidence of the positive effects of music therapy has grown so much that the National Institutes of Health has awarded 20 million dollars toward research on music therapy and neuroscience over the next five years.

The education, training, and certification of a music therapist is expansive and rigorous. A music therapist must earn a bachelor's degree or higher from one of over 80 American Music Therapy Association approved colleges and universities. The curriculum includes coursework in music, human development, psychology, anatomy and physiology, and behavioral sciences. Through this diverse course of study, a student learns how to use the elements of music, the

relationship between therapist and client, and the act of musiking itself as a means of meeting specific, measurable, appropriate, relevant, and timely goals for their clients in cognition, socialization, communication, motor movement, or emotional expression.

In addition to their classes, a student practices therapeutic skills in clinical sites, and ultimately through an internship at an approved mental health, special education, or health care facility, all of which totals a minimum of 1200 hours in supervised clinical training. At the completion of their academic and clinical training, students are eligible to take the national examination administered by the Certification Board for Music Therapists, an independent, non-profit certifying agency accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies. After successful completion of the CBMT examination, graduates are issued the credential necessary for professional practice, Music Therapist-Board Certified (MT-BC). To demonstrate continued competence and to maintain this credential, music therapists are required to complete 100 hours of continuing music therapy education every five years.

Although board certified music therapists know the depth of their clinical training, their standards of practice, code of ethics, and scope of practice, the general public often does not. A music therapist is not only equipped to use music therapeutically in various settings, but is also able to respond to the emotional response or trigger that may emerge as a result of the therapeutic process. They can address various needs that are present in the session or within the family, and share observable progress toward goal areas. Music therapists are also evaluating when music therapy is no longer needed, or sometimes even detrimental to the individual, and have a clinical process for transition and/or referral out for additional resources.

Music therapy is an established, evidenced-based and efficacious practice that is serving the citizens of the granite state. By creating a state license for music therapists, you will be the governing body that upholds our high standards of practice, thereby protecting your constituents from non-certified practitioners that do not have this body of experience and education. In addition, you will be creating a state standard that is comprehensive and accessible to the public, ensuring a transparent process for New Hampshire citizens to find a qualified and licensed music therapy provider. Finally, you will be removing barriers to much needed services, recognizing music therapists in the state alongside their peers in related professions, and providing an avenue for job growth throughout the state.

Today, I share my support of House Bill 209 and ask you to vote YES for a music therapy license in New Hampshire.

Thank You,
Rebecca Gildea

References:

www.musictherapy.org

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4036702/>

<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-awards-20-million-over-five-years-bring-together-music-therapy-neuroscience>



New Hampshire
State Council on the **Arts**

February 2, 2021

Executive Departments and Administration Committee
NH House of Representatives
LOB Room 306
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Chair McGuire and Committee Members,

My name is Ginnie Lupi and I serve as Director of the [New Hampshire State Council on the Arts](#) (the Arts Division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources). I am writing to you today regarding HB 209, which would license and regulate music therapists in New Hampshire. I am sorry I was unable to attend yesterday's hearing.

I'm particularly interested in this bill because before my work in the arts, I worked in leadership positions in community behavioral health for almost two decades. During that time I witnessed a significant change in the acceptance of creative arts therapies – visual art, dance/ movement, drama, music and writing – and saw firsthand how the arts can help in behavioral health stabilization and recovery. Indeed, the research is very clear that creative arts therapies can be very successful in treating a variety of mental health and addiction conditions – when provided by qualified individuals.

For over 70 years, creative arts therapies have been utilized in psychotherapy and counseling with individuals of all ages. They are rooted in the arts, creativity theory and psychology. These therapies and others that utilize self-expression in treatment are defined as the use of art, music, drama, dance/movement, and poetry/creative writing within the context of psychotherapy, counseling, rehabilitation, and medicine.

According to the American Music Therapy Association, 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 Therapy is an established health profession in which music is used within a therapeutic relationship to address physical, emotional, cognitive, and social needs of individuals. After assessing the strengths and needs of each client, the qualified music therapist provides the indicated treatment including creating, singing, moving to, and/or listening to music. Through

musical involvement in the therapeutic context, clients' abilities are strengthened and transferred to other areas of their lives. Music therapy also provides avenues for communication that can be helpful to those who find it difficult to express themselves in words. Research in music therapy supports its effectiveness in many areas such as: overall physical rehabilitation and facilitating movement, increasing people's motivation to become engaged in their treatment, providing emotional support for clients and their families, and providing an outlet for expression of feelings.

<https://www.musictherapy.org/about/quotes/>

The National Endowment for the Arts has embraced the power of music and other creative arts therapies in its program for military patients and veterans who have been diagnosed with traumatic brain injury (TBI) and psychological health conditions, as well as their families and caregivers. The Arts Endowment has also invested in a study here in New Hampshire, at the [Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center Department of Neurology](#), to incorporate music, creative writing and visual art into the inpatient unit and clinic to examine whether creative arts can boost quality of life and decrease distress in these patients.

Credentialed (but not licensed) professional music therapists practice in a variety of settings in New Hampshire, from hospitals to community health and mental health centers, to schools and other clinical and community settings, just like mental health professionals who have the benefit of state licensure. Music therapists also practice in several community music schools in New Hampshire, which we support with grants.

In the Granite State, mental health professions such as counseling, psychology, social work, marriage and family therapy and alcohol and drug counseling are licensed. Licensure is important because it protects the public from potential harm that may be caused when a non-qualified person purports to be a qualified practitioner. Licensure ensures that the person receiving services is accessing them from a professional who has been deemed qualified not only by a national accreditation body but also under state law and regulation. Licensure also qualifies professionals for insurance reimbursement, which, these days, is essential for career growth.

Each mental health profession is different and requires its own specialized training (generally Master's degree level and above) and has its own distinct scope of practice. This is why the professions I mentioned a moment ago are separately licensed, and why music therapy (and ideally other creative arts therapies) should be licensed as well. The New Hampshire State Council on the Arts supports the the intent of bill as an important first step toward recognition of these proven behavioral health treatment modalities in our state, particularly as we navigate the complexities of the ongoing mental health and opioid crisis.

We are also pleased to see language added to this year's bill that would provide protection for [Certified Music Practitioners](#), who provide live acoustic music at bedside, one-on-one, for therapeutic purposes. CMPs are **not** music therapists and don't purport to be; they provide important services that aim to bring comfort by having the patient be in the presence of the music. A CMP uses only live music and has no goal other than addressing a patient's immediate needs to provide a healing environment. The State Arts Council supports several projects through our [Arts in Health grant program](#) that utilize

the expertise of CMPs and other therapeutic artists, so this protective language will be very important if HB 209 becomes law.


Finally, we have one caveat about our support of this bill. Ideally, we would prefer to see the Legislature explore a broader “creative arts therapies” license, under which music, art, drama, dance/movement, and poetry/creative writing professionals could be regulated. Such a move would eliminate duplicative governing boards and also recognize *expressive arts therapy*, which works across artistic disciplines. It would also align New Hampshire with other states that are exploring a broader licensure category (New York is currently the only state with this licensure category).

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 209. Feel free to reach out if you have questions.

All best,



Ginnie Lupi
Director, NH State Council on the Arts
603-271-8418
virginia.a.lupi@dncr.nh.gov

Archived: Thursday, March 18, 2021 1:49:53 PM
From: [Victoria Chesterley](#)
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 9:58:21 AM
To: ~House Executive Departments and Administration
Subject: Music Therapy Licensure Follow-up
Response requested: No
Importance: Normal
Attachments:
[NHSLHA Letter 2 to ED&A Music Therapy.docx](#) 

Dear Chairwoman McGuire and Members of the Committee:

I have attached a follow-up letter regarding the licensure of music therapists.

Please let me or Neil Themea (speechjake@gmail.com) if you require any further information.

Thank you for your time in considering this matter.

Sincerely,

Victoria Chesterley

--

Victoria Chesterley, MS, CCC-SLP
Consulting Speech-Language Pathologist
(Retired) VP of Governmental Affairs, New Hampshire Speech-Language-Hearing Association

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Membership Application Form: <http://www.nhslha.org/membership/become-a-member/>

Payment: <http://www.nhslha.org/store/>

Archived: Thursday, March 18, 2021 1:49:53 PM
From: Lupi, Virginia (Ginnie)
Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 2:40:00 PM
To: ~House Executive Departments and Administration
Subject: HB 209 Testimony
Response requested: No
Importance: High
Attachments:
LUPI_HB 209_Testimony.pdf ;

Dear Chair McGuire and Committee Members,


I regret I was unable to attend yesterday's hearing on HB 209. Please accept the attached testimony.

All best,
Ginnie

Ginnie Lupi
she/her
Director
New Hampshire State Council on the Arts
19 Pillsbury Street
Concord, NH 03301
virginia.a.lupi@dncr.nh.gov
603-271-8418
www.nh.gov/nharts



New Hampshire
State Council on the **Arts**

Archived: Thursday, March 18, 2021 1:49:54 PM
From: [Nicole O'Malley](#)
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 11:56:37 AM
To: [~House Executive Departments and Administration; nomalley@hri.org;](#)
[kmcghee257@gmail.com](#)
Subject: HB 209 testimony
Response requested: No
Importance: Normal
Attachments:
[NH testimony HB 209 .docx.pdf](#) 

Hello


I am signed up to testify today in support of HB 209 and also wanted to provide written testimony to aid in ensuring talking points are received without taking too much of the committee's time. My name is Nicole O'Malley. I am a board certified music therapist licensed in RI. I am the Government Relations Representative for the New England Region of the American Music Therapy Association and have remained the Task Force Chair in RI throughout the passing of legislation and licensure.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions or would like to clarify anything. It is exciting to see NH discuss innovative options for vulnerable populations.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Nicole

Nicole O'Malley
Government Relations Representative
New England Region American Music Therapy Association

Archived: Thursday, March 18, 2021 1:49:54 PM
From: [Heather Young](#)
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 10:04:42 AM
To: [~House Executive Departments and Administration](#)
Subject: HB209 Testimony
Response requested: No
Importance: Normal
Attachments:
[Music Therapy Bill- HB209.pdf](#) 

Good morning,

Attached is testimony for the 2:15pm hearing on HB209, relative to the licensure and regulation of music therapists.

Sincerely,
Heather

Heather Young (Donnell)
603-312-0629

Archived: Thursday, March 18, 2021 1:49:55 PM

From: [Cacia King](#)

Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2021 1:50:32 PM

To: ~House Executive Departments and Administration

Cc: [Carol McGuire](#); [Terry Roy](#); [John Sytek](#); [Steve Pearson](#); [Michael Yakubovich](#); [Tony Lekas](#); [grbailey@metrocast.net](#); [tomlanzara@gmail.com](#); [Santonastaso@cheshireliberty.com](#); [Jeff Goley](#); [Dianne Schuett](#); [Jean Jeudy](#); [Peter Schmidt](#); [Kris Schultz](#); [Sallie Fellows](#); [Tim Fontneau](#); [Jaci Grote](#); [Michael O'Brien](#)

Subject: HB 209 Testimony

Response requested: No

Importance: Normal

Attachments:

[Cacia King HB 209 Testimony.pdf](#) 

Hello all,

Attached, please find my testimony in support of HB 209.

Thanks,
Cacia King

--

Cacia King, MM, MT-BC
Board Certified Music Therapist
Neurologic Music Therapist
She/Her



The Sonatina Center

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Archived: Thursday, March 18, 2021 1:49:55 PM
From: [Rebecca Gildea](#)
Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2021 11:53:35 AM
To: ~House Executive Departments and Administration
Cc: [Rebecca Gildea](#); [Marissa Scott](#); [Shannon Laine](#)
Subject: Rebecca Gildea - Written Testimony for HB209
Response requested: No
Importance: Normal
Attachments:
[HB 209 Rebecca Gildea Testimony \(2021\).pdf](#) 

Dear Chairwoman McGuire and Members of the Committee,

My name is Rebecca Gildea and I am a board certified music therapist living and working in New Hampshire. Attached please find my written testimony in support of the current bill before you today.

Sincerely,
Rebecca

--

Rebecca Gildea, MT-BC
Music Therapy Clinical Supervisor
Board Certified Music Therapist
She/Her

The Sonatina Center
750 Central Ave, Suite U
Dover, NH 03820
(603) 978-4808
www.thesonatinacenter.com

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Archived: Thursday, March 18, 2021 1:49:55 PM

From: [Kathy McGhee](#)

Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2021 11:04:00 AM

To: ~House Executive Departments and Administration

Cc: [Kathy McGhee](#)

Subject: Rep McGhee - Sponsor - Written testimony for HB209-FN

Response requested: No

Importance: Normal

Attachments: [HB209 Music Therapy Testimony 2-3-21.docx](#); [Points for 2021 Bill Session.docx](#);

Dear Chairwoman McGuire and Members of the Committee,

Attached please find my written testimony/overview of the current bill before you today and a brief history from the last session; those of you who are returning members may have vivid recollection of the testimony, subsequent subcommittee work and final amendment that led this bill to its current state in the form of HB209.

I am also attaching a sheet that includes relevant detail defining the profession of Music Therapist and illuminating the changes to the delivery of music therapy to patients, during the Covid19 pandemic. With the decrease in time for individual testimony, I am hoping that this information will help members understand the importance of passing this bill, at this time, so that these highly skilled and valuable therapists can find the legally authorized legitimacy to which they are entitled so as to be compensated through insurance for their work.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Rep. Kat McGhee

Archived: Thursday, March 18, 2021 1:49:56 PM

From: [Marissa Scott](#)

Sent: Saturday, January 30, 2021 3:24:04 PM

To: ~House Executive Departments and Administration; Carol McGuire; Terry Roy; John Sytek; Steve Pearson; Michael Yakubovich; Tony Lekas; grbailey@metrocast.net; tomlanzara@gmail.com; Santonastaso@cheshireliberty.com; Jeff Goley; Dianne Schuett; Jean Jeudy; Peter Schmidt; Kris Schultz; Sallie Fellows; Tim Fontneau; Jaci Grote; Michael O'Brien

Subject: HB 209 Statement of Response to Opposition Marissa Scott

Response requested: No

Importance: Normal

Attachments:

[HB 209 Statement of Response to Opposition from ASHA.pdf](#) 

Dear Ms. Chairwoman and Members of the committee,

I am writing to you in response to opposition from The American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) to HB 209.

With any proposed change in occupational regulation, we understand that our peers in other rehabilitative professions may have questions. Acknowledging that you may hear opposition statements today from representatives of these professions, I would like to take the opportunity to alleviate any concerns and demonstrate the good faith efforts we have made over the past several years, in New Hampshire and nationally to reach compromises within bill language so that consumers benefit from the collaborative and interdisciplinary team approach that exists among our professions at the clinical level.

The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) and The American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) have been working together at the national level for several years to create agreed upon language as Music Therapists pursue licensure in states across the country. Our bill already includes language within the music therapy definition that has been adopted in other states, and which was specifically received from the speech-language and hearing professional organization.

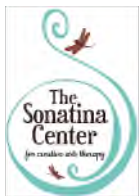
When music therapy licensure was introduced in the 2020 legislative session, we had very thorough discussions regarding the language of the bill over several subcommittee hearings during which representatives from both ASHA and the OPLC were present. This subcommittee included some of the representatives meeting with us today, including Chairwoman McGuire, Representative Schmidt, Representative Fellows and Representative Grote. We proposed and agreed to amend the bill to use the current agreed upon language between ASHA and AMTA which includes 111 words requested by ASHA. However, the subcommittee, the House of Representatives, and specifically Chair McGuire, felt that the addition of the language overly complicated the bill and voted to simplify the bill language. The subcommittee then proposed simplified bill language, reflective of existing licensed allied health RSA language. The language in HB209 is the product of these subcommittee discussions, ultimately passing through the House of Representatives on March 13, 2020.

Given that there will be no subcommittee meetings in this session, I ask that you recognize my statement as a gesture of good faith and commitment to continue collaborations with other licensed allied health professionals during the remainder of our legislative process and vote yes for HB 209.

Sincerely,
Marissa Scott, MA, MT-BC
Chair, State Task Force for Music Therapy Advocacy
Board-Certified Music Therapist
The Sonatina Center, LLC

Marissa Scott, MA, MT-BC, CLD

Board Certified Music Therapist, Certified Labor Doula
Owner & Executive Director
She/Her



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Archived: Thursday, March 18, 2021 1:49:57 PM

From: [Marissa Scott](#)

Sent: Saturday, January 30, 2021 3:19:57 PM

To: ~House Executive Departments and Administration; Carol McGuire; Terry Roy; John Sytek; Steve Pearson; Michael Yakubovich; Tony Lekas; grbailey@metrocast.net; tomlanzara@gmail.com; Santonastaso@cheshireliberty.com; Jeff Goley; Dianne Schuett; Jean Judy; Peter Schmidt; Kris Schultz; Sallie Fellows; Tim Fontneau; Jaci Grote; Michael O'Brien

Subject: HB 209 Testimony: Marissa Scott

Response requested: No

Importance: Normal

Attachments:

[HB 209 Testimony Marissa Scott.pdf](#) 

Dear Ms. Chairwoman and members of the Committee,

My name is Marissa Scott and I speak to you today not only as chair of the State Task Force for Music Therapy Advocacy, but also as female business owner, mother of four, and citizen of the community. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today on the subject of House Bill 209 relative to the Licensure and Regulation of Music Therapists.

Music therapy is a health-care profession recognized by the National Institutes of Health, the American Medical Association and the Department of Education. Music therapists are nationally credentialed professionals, providing clinical, evidence-based services to individuals of all ages and abilities. The education and training of a music therapist is comprehensive and rigorous, including collegiate level music, psychology, social and behavioral science studies as well as 1200+ supervised clinical fieldwork hours in multiple settings.

As chair of the NH music therapy task force, I am one of many music therapists in the country working to advocate for our services and improve access for consumers. Through advocacy efforts, eight states have established a music therapy license in the past 10 years (Georgia, New Jersey, New York, Nevada, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Virginia) and 2 states have established a music therapy registry or state certification in the last 12 years (Utah and Wisconsin). Fifteen states, including New Hampshire, are in motion to introduce legislation to recognize music therapy education, clinical training, and credentialing qualifications in 2021. A state license for music therapy aligns New Hampshire with active movements across the country: recognizing and validating the music therapy profession with other allied health professions.

As the business owner of a music therapy center, I can attest that we provide music therapy services to more than 2500 individuals in NH including children, teens, and adults. Our clients seek our services because they have tried other therapies and they are seeking an alternative. They come to us in need of help to work on individualized goals in areas such as emotion, regulation, sensory integration, and self-expression. Additionally we provide them with opportunities for improving self-esteem, promoting a positive sense of self-worth, supporting their development, addressing rehabilitative needs and enhancing their wellbeing. At The Sonatina Center, we employ five board certified music therapists including myself. The growth of our practice directly correlates to an increasing number of jobs that we have been able to offer in our community.

I would like to highlight two important points as to why this committee should support a state license for board-certified music therapists: First, increasing consumer access to services, and second, protecting consumers from harm.

As a board-certified music therapist, I have observed first hand the impact that music therapy has in medical, educational, and aging settings. Thinking of our clients at the Sonatina Center, I've watched how the therapeutic relationship built in music therapy sessions has helped a child with selective mutism verbalize and build meaningful relationships with peers. I've helped a child with cerebral palsy strengthen motor skills, moving from grasping a drum mallet to grasping a spoon to feed himself independently. Music therapy has given a teen with anxiety and depression a safe and supportive place to express himself. Through the combination of a therapeutic relationship and songwriting interventions, his work in music therapy has ceased and prevented him from continuing acts of self-harm.

Unfortunately, many individuals seeking our services face bureaucratic barriers that prevent them from accessing music therapy services and have at times caused them to lose music therapy services. You see, when a health-care provider seeks to submit reimbursement claims from a private insurance company, there is a requirement on the credentialing form to provide the providers license number. After hundreds of phone calls to Anthem, Blue Cross & Blue Shield, Aetna, United Behavioral Health, and Cigna to name a few, I have personally been told again and again and again that we cannot bypass this request for a license number. We cannot be contracted "In-Network" providers and their insurance plans will not cover our therapy sessions because our profession is not regulated at the state level and we do not have this required state license. Yet referrals from pediatricians, neurologists and other doctors who know the efficacy and benefits of music therapy services for their patients continue to come in and these patients in need are not able to access our services. Doctor referrals are what dictate medically necessary services, yet in NH, it doesn't matter if a doctor has said our services are medically necessary, because we don't have the licensing credentials required by private insurance plans.

Similarly, a large percentage of people who would greatly benefit from our services have NH Medicaid. In fact, according to the December 2020 data, there are 27,428 severely disabled youth, adults, and elderly enrolled in Medicaid who are not able to access our services simply because we can not be considered as providers without a state license. This number doesn't even include children who have experienced abuse, neglect and trauma and have been placed in foster care.

We are not here today to ask that you advocate for the music therapy profession to private or state insurance organizations, or even get involved in the processes of reimbursement. While billing medical health plans and insurance companies is not the ultimate intent of this legislation, it is imperative that you understand the barriers your NH consumers are facing while trying to access our clinically effective and medically necessary services.

As for my second point, it can be difficult to understand how music can cause harm, but allow me to elaborate. Music therapists are trained to independently observe and respond to client non-verbal, verbal, psychological and physiological responses to music and non-music stimuli. The music therapist implements ongoing evaluation of client responses and adapts interventions accordingly in order to be clinically effective and refrain from contra-indicated practices.

The use of live music interventions demands that the therapist not only possess the knowledge and skills of a trained therapist, but also the unique abilities of an accomplished musician in order to manipulate the music therapy intervention to fit the clients' needs. Given the diversity of

diagnosis with which music therapists work and the practice settings in which they work independently, clinical training and experience are necessary. Individuals attempting to provide music therapy treatment interventions without formalized music therapy training and credentials may pose risks to clients. Examples may include, but are not limited to:

- the clinical use of a music stimulus that is too complex for one's neurological system, which may cause increased agitation or dysregulation.
- The potential of music to trigger or elicit intense emotions, during which the lack of, or ineffective therapeutic response to, or processing of these emotions may lead to short term and/or long term social and psychological harm.

Contraindicated procedures may involve either the use of music or how the music is used that may harm the consumer. Some specific examples include working with clients who:

- have musicogenic epilepsy, where a music stimulus can cause a seizure activity
- have Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia, where music can trigger severe states of anxiety, which can spread to other consumers if, for example, someone lives in a skilled nursing facility.
- are premature infants in the NICU, where music can easily provide too much stimulation, which results in stress behaviors and can impede the infant's ability to thrive
- have experienced trauma, where music has a direct connection to our emotional memories and can cause extreme emotional distress if it triggers a traumatic experience or memory

To protect the public from threats of harm in clinical practice, music therapists comply with safety standards and professional competencies including recognizing and responding to situations where there are clear and present dangers to a client and/or others, recognizing the potential of harm of music, verbal, and physical interventions during music experiences and using them with care, observing infection control protocols and recognizing the client populations and health conditions for which music experiences are contraindicated. Currently in NH, we have individuals claiming they provide music therapy services, yet they are not educated, clinically trained or board-certified and no one is regulating if they are complying with these safety standards. The creation of a state license requires that individuals meet both state and national standards when identifying themselves as music therapists and protects our most vulnerable and marginalized citizens.

In closing, I ask that you vote YES for NH HB 209. Establishing a music therapy license in New Hampshire will allow opportunities for more consumers to access music therapy services and protect consumers including our most vulnerable and marginalized citizens. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Marissa Scott, MA, MT-BC, CLD

Chair, State Task Force for Music Therapy Advocacy
Board Certified Music Therapist, Certified Labor Doula
The Sonatina Center, LLC

Marissa Scott, MA, MT-BC, CLD

Board Certified Music Therapist, Certified Labor Doula
Owner & Executive Director
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Archived: Thursday, March 18, 2021 1:49:57 PM
From: Victoria Chesterley
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2021 2:12:14 PM
To: ~House Executive Departments and Administration; Thomas Prasol; Susan Adams; Deborah Bennett; Neil Themea
Subject: HB 209 Music Therapist Licensure
Response requested: No
Importance: Normal
Attachments:
NHSLHA Letter Music Therapy License 2021.docx 

Dear Chairwoman McGuire,

Please see the attached letter from the NHSLHA regarding our opposition to HB 209 regarding licensure for music therapists.

If the additional wording proposed by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association were to be added to the bill, we would support the changes.

Sincerely,

Victoria Chesterley

--

Victoria Chesterley, MS, CCC-SLP
Consulting Speech-Language Pathologist
(Retired) VP of Governmental Affairs, New Hampshire Speech-Language-Hearing Association

Join NHSLHA
Membership Application Form: <http://www.nhslha.org/membership/become-a-member/>
Payment: <http://www.nhslha.org/store/>

Archived: Thursday, March 18, 2021 1:49:57 PM
From: Susan Adams
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2021 11:13:36 AM
To: ~House Executive Departments and Administration
Cc: Broderick, Thomas; Vicki Chesterley (vchesterleyslp@gmail.com)
Subject: HB 209
Response requested: No
Importance: Normal
Attachments:
ASHA Opposition Letter to NH Committee HB 209 Music Therapy.pdf ;

Chairwoman McGuire and members of the Executive Departments and Administration Committee,

Attached please find ASHA's letter of opposition to HB 209 that would regulate music therapists in the state.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me at sadams@asha.org.

Best,

~Susan


Susan Adams, Esq.
Pronouns: she/her/hers
Director, State Legislative & Regulatory Affairs
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
2200 Research Boulevard, #220
Rockville, MD 20850

Direct Line: 301-296-5665
National Office: 301-296-5700
Email: sadams@asha.org
<http://www.asha.org>

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Archived: Thursday, March 18, 2021 1:49:57 PM
From: [Shannon Laine](#)
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2021 9:16:41 AM
To: ~House Executive Departments and Administration
Cc: [Marissa Scott](#)
Subject: In Support of HB 209 - Relative to Licensure for Music Therapists
Response requested: No
Importance: Normal
Attachments:
[Music therapy support letter.pdf](#) 

January 29, 2021

Madame chairman, members of the Committee, my name is Shannon Laine and I'm representing the NH Music Therapy Advocacy Task Force. I write to you today in support of House Bill 209, relative to the Licensure and Regulation of Music Therapists.

I am a Board Certified Music Therapist, and in 2006, I founded the first music therapy program in New Hampshire at the Manchester Community Music School. This ongoing program provides music therapy benefits to over two hundred seventy five individuals each week from its contracts with over twenty schools, hospitals, agencies, and other community partnerships.

Specifically, I provide music therapy to individuals with Developmental Disabilities, including children on the Autism Spectrum, with Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, and other unique needs that might impact a child's development.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (referred to as IDEA), recognizes a multitude of services, known as related services, that school districts can implement in order for students to make documented progress on their defined educational goals. One related service specifically identified in the IDEA is music therapy. Even Commissioner Edelblut with the New Hampshire Department of Education has identified the importance of music therapy services for school-aged students in our state (please see the attached document for reference). Regardless of this, music therapy services across the state are still denied by school districts. Often, the reason that is cited relates to the qualifications of a music therapist, and lack of licensure. By comparison, occupational, speech, and physical therapies are all listed as related services under the IDEA and regularly provided in school districts across the state.

As a frequent collaborator with schools, IEP teams, other service providers, as well as music educators across Southern New Hampshire, licensure has another benefit. With an increase of inclusion experiences for students with developmental disabilities, there is a significant increase in the number of students with severe needs being placed in music education classrooms. Oftentimes, music educators do not have the knowledge,

training, or resources to meet the needs of these students. Music Educators are being requested to provide and implement music therapy services in place of regular education music

classes despite not having training or education in this discipline. This results in either an erroneous negative regard for the effectiveness of music therapy or confusion over the validity and efficacy of music therapy services. While students with developmental disabilities can benefit from both music therapy and music education experiences, licensure would enable increased access to music therapy services as appropriate for these students.

Without licensure, it may become difficult for consumers to differentiate between trained board certified music therapists and professionals practicing similar sounding, but fundamentally different, disciplines.


With the passing and implementation of House Bill 209, licensure would provide State Recognition

for music therapists, ensuring school districts are employing credentialed, qualified, and licensed music therapists.

I ask that you support House Bill 209 by voting yes, further recognizing music therapists as licensed professionals, while increasing access to music therapy services throughout the state.

Thank you for your time,
Shannon Laine, MT-BC

Board Certified Music Therapist
64 Broad Street
Hollis, New Hampshire 03049

Archived: Thursday, March 18, 2021 1:49:57 PM
From: Pam Smarling
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2021 8:51:29 AM
To: ~House Executive Departments and Administration
Subject: background on HB 209 for Monday
Response requested: No
Importance: Normal
Attachments:
[memo HB 209 music therapists.pdf](#) 

TO: All Members of the House ED&A Committee,

Attached is some information on legislation to require the licensure of music therapists that was filed in 2020. HB 209 (2021) is among the bills scheduled for Monday.

I'll see you then.

Pam

Pam Smarling, Senior Committee Researcher
House Committee Research, Room 409, LOB
33 N. State St., Concord, NH 03301
(603) 271-3387



Archived: Thursday, March 18, 2021 1:49:57 PM

From: Krystal Bloom

Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 9:58:32 PM

To: ~House Executive Departments and Administration

Cc: Carol McGuire; Terry Roy; John Sytek; Steve Pearson; Michael Yakubovich; Tony Lekas; grbailey@metrocast.net; tomlanzara@gmail.com; Santonastaso@cheshireliberty.com; Jeff Goley; Dianne Schuett; Jean Jeudy; Peter Schmidt; Kris Schultz; Sallie Fellows; Tim Fontneau; Jaci Grote; Michael O'Brien

Subject: In Support of HB-209

Response requested: No

Importance: Normal

Attachments:

Please Support HB 209 (1).pdf 

Dear House Executive Departments and Administration Committee Members,

I am a board certified music therapist working in a community music school in Nashua, NH. I am writing this comment to indicate my support of the music therapists in New Hampshire as they seek licensure. This state recognition of the music therapy profession will help ensure that consumers in our state have access to music therapy services provided by a qualified practitioner. It will serve to both protect the public and increase their ability to choose and access healthcare services that best meet their needs. Like any skilled and trained healthcare professional, music therapists need to have state recognition of their profession and credential to ensure quality service delivery for NH citizens. I urge you to support HB 209, in the establishment of licensure for music therapists in New Hampshire.

Sincerely,

Krystal C. Bloom, MT-BC

--

Krystal C. Bloom, MT-BC
Board Certified Music Therapist
603-496-4611

American Music Therapy Association
www.musictherapy.org

[My Music Therapy Blog](#)

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Archived: Thursday, March 18, 2021 1:49:57 PM

From: [Katy Gibney](#)

Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 9:19:30 AM

To: ~House Executive Departments and Administration; Carol McGuire; Terry Roy; John Sytek; Steve Pearson; Michael Yakubovich; Tony Lekas; grbailey@metrocast.net; tomlanzara@gmail.com; Santonastaso@cheshireliberty.com; Jeff Goley; Dianne Schuett; Jean Jeudy; Peter Schmidt; Kris Schultz; Sallie Fellows; Tim Fontneau; Jaci Grote; Michael O'Brien

Subject: HB209

Importance: Normal

Dear House Executive Departments and Administration Committee Members, I am a Certified Music Practitioner working in acute care facilities in Concord, NH. I am writing this comment to indicate my support of the music therapists in New Hampshire as they seek licensure. This state recognition of the music therapy profession will help ensure that consumers in our state have access to music therapy services provided by a qualified practitioner. It will serve to both protect the public and increase their ability to choose and access healthcare services that best meet their needs. Like any skilled and trained healthcare professional, music therapists need to have state recognition of their profession and credential to ensure quality service delivery for NH citizens. I urge you to support HB 209, in the establishment of licensure for music therapists in New Hampshire.

Sincerely,

Katy Gibney

Thank you for your continued support of our profession and licensure goals. If you have any questions or concerns, please email the NH task force chair member, Marissa Scott, MA, MT-BC at nhstatetaskforce@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

The New Hampshire State Task Force

--

Katy
HB209

Archived: Thursday, March 18, 2021 1:49:57 PM
From: [Cynthia Birse](#)
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 8:05:47 PM
To: [~House Executive Departments and Administration](#)
Subject: HB209
Importance: Normal

I support HB209 as I have seen the benefits of music therapy in multiple children that I have worked with over my 29 years in special education. Please do all that is possible to establish licensure for music therapists in NH so that they can continue to make small miracles happen every day.

Cynthia Birse
Clinical Instructor
The Birchtree Center for Children and Families with Autism

Archived: Thursday, March 18, 2021 1:49:58 PM

From: Marissa Scott

Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 5:40:45 PM

To: ~House Executive Departments and Administration; Carol McGuire; Terry Roy; John Sytek; Steve Pearson; Michael Yakubovich; Tony Lekas; grbailey@metrocst.net; tomlanzara@gmail.com; Santonastaso@cheshireliberty.com; Jeff Goley; Dianne Schuett; Jean Judy; Peter Schmidt; Kris Schultz; Sallie Fellows; Tim Fontneau; Jaci Grote; Michael O'Brien

Subject: HB 209: Music Therapy Video

Importance: Normal

Good Afternoon Chairwoman McGuire and Members of the committee,

Thank you for hearing our testimony in support of HB 209 today.

As requested, I invite you to view the WMUR Chronicle segment put out in 2018 on Music Therapy in NH.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9iMJX6YdxSU>

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

Marissa Scott

Marissa Scott, MA, MT-BC, CLD

Board Certified Music Therapist, Certified Labor Doula

Owner & Executive Director

She/Her



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Archived: Thursday, March 18, 2021 1:49:58 PM

From: Barb Scott

Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 1:11:58 PM

To: ~House Executive Departments and Administration

Cc: carol@mcguire4house.com; Terry Roy; John Sytek; Steve Pearson; Michael Yakubovich; Tony Leks; grbailey@metrocast.net; tomlanzara@gmail.com; Santonastaso@CheshireLiberty.com; Jeff Goley; Dianne Schuett; Jean Jeudy; Peter Schmidt; Kris Schultz; Sallie Fellows; Tim Fontneau; Jaci Grote; Michael O'Brien; Barb Scott

Subject: HB 209 Letter of Support

Importance: Normal

Dear House Executive Departments and Administration Committee Members,

I am the Director of a Music Therapy program based in the Manchester Community Music School. I am writing this comment to indicate my support of the music therapists in New Hampshire as they seek licensure. This state recognition of the music therapy profession will help ensure that consumers in our state have access to music therapy services provided by a qualified practitioner. It will serve to both protect the public and increase their ability to choose and access healthcare services that best meet their needs. Like any skilled and trained healthcare professional, music therapists need to have state recognition of their profession and credential to ensure quality service delivery for NH citizens.

I urge you to support HB 209, in the establishment of licensure for music therapists in New Hampshire.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Barbara Scott

Barbara Scott, Director of Music Therapy

bscott@mcmusicschool.org

Manchester Community Music School

(603) 644-4548

www.mcmusicschool.org

Changing Lives through the Power of Music

Archived: Thursday, March 18, 2021 1:49:58 PM
From: [Mark Vallone](#)
Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2021 8:00:35 PM
To: ~House Executive Departments and Administration
Cc: nhatlasman@comcast.net
Subject: HB 209
Importance: Normal

I write to express my support for HB 209. I have been a musician and music teacher for my entire professional life, 40 years so far. I know that music therapists work with a population of students and adults that are at times physically/mentally/ and emotionally challenged. I strongly believe there should be a board established to certify and license music therapists to ensure that the needs of their students or clients are appropriately and safely met.

Thank you,
Chris Vallone

Archived: Thursday, March 18, 2021 1:49:58 PM

From: [Ryan Judd](#)

Sent: Saturday, January 30, 2021 2:45:25 PM

To: ~House Executive Departments and Administration

Cc: [Carol McGuire](#); [Terry Roy](#); [John Sytek](#); [Steve Pearson](#); [Michael Yakubovich](#); [Tony Lekas](#); [grbailey@metrocast.net](#); [tomlanzara@gmail.com](#); [Santonastaso@CheshireLiberty.com](#); [Jeff Goley](#); [Dianne Schuett](#); [Jean Jeudy](#); [Peter Schmidt](#); [Kris Schultz](#); [Sallie Fellows](#); [Tim Fontneau](#); [Jaci Grote](#); [Michael O'Brien](#)

Subject: Music therapy bill

Importance: Normal

Dear House Executive Departments and Administration Committee Members,

I am a board certified music therapist working in private practice in Exeter, NH. I am writing this comment to indicate my support of the music therapists in New Hampshire as they seek licensure. This state recognition of the music therapy profession will help ensure that consumers in our state have access to music therapy services provided by a qualified practitioner. It will serve to both protect the public and increase their ability to choose and access healthcare services that best meet their needs. Like any skilled and trained healthcare professional, music therapists need to have state recognition of their profession and credential to ensure quality service delivery for NH citizens. I urge you to support HB 209, in the establishment of licensure for music therapists in New Hampshire.

Sincerely,

Ryan Judd

Archived: Thursday, March 18, 2021 1:49:58 PM

From: [Maddie Harper](#)

Sent: Saturday, January 30, 2021 12:17:28 PM

To: ~House Executive Departments and Administration

Cc: [Carol McGuire](#); [Terry Roy](#); [John Sytek](#); [Steve Pearson](#); [Michael Yakubovich](#); [Tony Lekas](#); [grbailey@metrocast.net](#); [tomlanzara@gmail.com](#); [Santonastaso@cheshireliberty.com](#); [Jeff Goley](#); [Dianne Schuett](#); [Jean Jeudy](#); [Peter Schmidt](#); [Kris Schultz](#); [Sallie Fellows](#); [Tim Fontneau](#); [Jaci Grote](#); [Michael O'Brien](#)

Subject: HB 209

Importance: Normal

Dear House Executive Departments and Administration Committee Members,

I am a Board Certified Music Therapist living in Londonderry. I am writing this comment to indicate my support of the music therapists in New Hampshire as we seek licensure. This state recognition of the music therapy profession will help ensure that consumers in our state have access to music therapy services provided by a qualified practitioner. It will serve to both protect the public and increase their ability to choose and access healthcare services that best meet their needs. Like any skilled and trained healthcare professional, music therapists need to have state recognition of their profession and credential to ensure quality service delivery for NH citizens. I urge you to support HB 209, in the establishment of licensure for music therapists in New Hampshire.

Sincerely,

Madison Harper

--

Maddie Harper

-

she/her/hers

maddieharper@gmail.com

Archived: Thursday, March 18, 2021 1:49:58 PM

From: Jodi Duggan

Sent: Saturday, January 30, 2021 9:56:09 AM

To: ~House Executive Departments and Administration

Cc: Carol McGuire; Terry Roy; John Sytek; Steve Pearson; Michael Yakubovich; Tony Lekas; grbailey@metrocast.net; tomlanzara@gmail.com; Santonastaso@cheshireliberty.com; Jeff Goley; Dianne Schuett; Jean Jeudy; Peter Schmidt; Kris Schultz; Sallie Fellows; Tim Fontneau; Jaci Grote; Michael O'Brien

Subject: HB209

Importance: Normal

Dear House Executive Departments and Administration Committee Members,

I am the mother of a special needs child in Durham, NH. I am writing this comment to indicate my support of the music therapists in New Hampshire as they seek licensure. This state recognition of the music therapy profession will help ensure that consumers in our state have access to music therapy services provided by a qualified practitioner. It will serve to both protect the public and increase their ability to choose and access healthcare services that best meet their needs. Like any skilled and trained healthcare professional, music therapists need to have state recognition of their profession and credential to ensure quality service delivery for NH citizens. I urge you to support HB 209, in the establishment of licensure for music therapists in New Hampshire.

Sincerely,

Jodi Duggan

Archived: Thursday, March 18, 2021 1:49:58 PM
From: [Monika Ostroff](#)
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2021 7:27:06 PM
To: [~House Executive Departments and Administration](#)
Subject: HB 209
Importance: Normal

Dear House Executive Departments and Administration Committee Members,

I am a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker. I am writing this comment to indicate my support of the music therapists in New Hampshire as they seek licensure. When I worked as the Manager of Outpatient Behavioral Health Programs for Parkland Medical Center, I oversaw the mental health and eating disorders partial hospital programs in addition to the acute inpatient psychiatric Social Work department. In this role I witnessed first hand how music therapy improved lives across these diverse populations. The patients -even the most reluctant- found themselves looking forward to this treatment modality. They enjoyed profound benefits in their mood and ability to function. As a mom of a child with autism, I regularly witness how her music therapist from the Sonatina Center improves her confidence, communication and sensory regulation. NH state recognition of the music therapy profession will help ensure that consumers in our state have access to music therapy services provided by a qualified practitioner. It will serve to both protect the public and increase their ability to choose and access healthcare services that best meet their needs. Like any skilled and trained healthcare professional, music therapists need to have state recognition of their profession and credential to ensure quality service delivery for NH citizens. I urge you to support HB 209, in the establishment of licensure for music therapists in New Hampshire.

Sincerely,

Monika Ostroff, LICSW, CEDS-S
Exeter, NH 03833

Sent from my iPhone

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Archived: Thursday, March 18, 2021 1:49:58 PM
From: Tammy
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2021 6:00:33 PM
To: ~House Executive Departments and Administration
Subject: HB 209
Importance: Normal

Dear House Executive Departments and Administration Committee Members,

I am a Director and lead teacher working in a preschool setting in Portsmouth, NH. I am writing this comment to indicate my support of the music therapists in New Hampshire as they seek licensure. This state recognition of the music therapy profession will help ensure that consumers in our state have access to music therapy services provided by a qualified practitioner. It will serve to both protect the public and increase their ability to choose and access healthcare services that best meet their needs. Like any skilled and trained healthcare professional, music therapists need to have state recognition of their profession and credential to ensure quality service delivery for NH citizens. I urge you to support HB 209, in the establishment of licensure for music therapists in New Hampshire.

Sincerely,

Tammy Roberge
Sent from my iPhone

Archived: Thursday, March 18, 2021 1:49:58 PM

From: [Crystal Pierce](#)

Sent: Friday, January 29, 2021 4:51:32 PM

To: ~House Executive Departments and Administration

Cc: [Carol McGuire](#); [Terry Roy](#); [John Sytek](#); [Steve Pearson](#); [Michael Yakubovich](#); [Tony Lekas](#); [grbailey@metrocast.net](#); [tomlanzara@gmail.com](#); [Santonastaso@cheshireliberty.com](#); [Jeff Goley](#); [Dianne Schuett](#); [Jean Jeudy](#); [Peter Schmidt](#); [Kris Schultz](#); [Sallie Fellows](#); [Tim Fontneau](#); [Jaci Grote](#); [Michael O'Brien](#)

Subject: HB 209: Licensure for music therapist

Importance: Normal

Dear House Executive Departments and Administration Committee Members,

I am a speech language pathologist working in a private school for children with disabilities in Rochester NH. I am writing this comment to indicate my support of the music therapists in New Hampshire as they seek licensure. This state recognition of the music therapy profession will help ensure that consumers in our state have access to music therapy services provided by a qualified practitioner. It will serve to both protect the public and increase their ability to choose and access healthcare services that best meet their needs. Like any skilled and trained healthcare professional, music therapists need to have state recognition of their profession and credential to ensure quality service delivery for NH citizens. I urge you to support HB 209, in the establishment of licensure for music therapists in New Hampshire.

Sincerely,

Crystal Deguzis

Archived: Thursday, March 18, 2021 1:49:58 PM

From: [Madeleine Doris](#)

Sent: Friday, January 29, 2021 2:54:18 PM

To: ~House Executive Departments and Administration

Cc: [Carol McGuire](#); [Terry Roy](#); [John Sytek](#); [Steve Pearson](#); [Michael Yakubovich](#); [Tony Lekas](#); [grbailey@metrocast.net](#); [tomlanzara@gmail.com](#); [Santonastaso@cheshireliberty.com](#); [Jeff Goley](#); [Dianne Schuett](#); [Jean Jeudy](#); [Peter Schmidt](#); [Kris Schultz](#); [Sallie Fellows](#); [Tim Fontneau](#); [Jaci Grote](#); [Michael O'Brien](#)

Subject: HB 209 in support of Music Therapy Licensure

Importance: Normal

Dear House Executive Departments and Administration Committee Members,

I am a Board Certified Music Therapist working as an Enrichment Assistant in assisted living in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. I am writing this comment to indicate my support of music therapists in New Hampshire as we seek licensure. This state recognition of the music therapy profession will help ensure that consumers in our state have access to music therapy services provided by a qualified practitioner. It will serve to both protect the public and increase their ability to choose and access healthcare services that best meet their needs. Like any skilled and trained healthcare professional, music therapists need to have state recognition of their profession and credential to ensure quality service delivery for NH citizens. I urge you to support HB 209, in the establishment of licensure for music therapists in New Hampshire.

Sincerely,

Madeleine Doris, MT-BC

Archived: Thursday, March 18, 2021 1:49:58 PM

From: [Kay Baldoumas](#)

Sent: Friday, January 29, 2021 12:46:03 PM

To: ~House Executive Departments and Administration

Cc: [Carol McGuire](#); [Terry Roy](#); [John Sytek](#); [Steve Pearson](#); [Michael Yakubovich](#); [Tony Lekas](#); [grbailey@metrocast.net](#); [tomlanzara@gmail.com](#); [Santonastaso@cheshireliberty.com](#); [Jeff Goley](#); [Dianne Schuett](#); [Jean Jeudy](#); [Peter Schmidt](#); [Kris Schultz](#); [Sallie Fellows](#); [Tim Fontneau](#); [Jaci Grote](#); [Michael O'Brien](#)

Subject: In support of HB 209

Importance: Normal

Dear House Executive Departments and Administration Committee Members,

I am an art therapist working in an expressive therapies practice in Dover NH. I am writing this comment to indicate my support of the music therapists in New Hampshire as they seek licensure. This state recognition of the music therapy profession will help ensure that consumers in our state have access to music therapy services provided by a qualified practitioner. It will serve to both protect the public and increase their ability to choose and access healthcare services that best meet their needs. Like any skilled and trained healthcare professional, music therapists need to have state recognition of their profession and credential to ensure quality service delivery for NH citizens. I urge you to support HB 209, in the establishment of licensure for music therapists in New Hampshire.

Sincerely,

Kristin Baldoumas, ATR-P (she/her)

Art Therapist

The Sonatina Center
750 Central Ave, Suite U
Dover, NH 03820
(603) 978-4808
www.thesonatinacenter.com

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Archived: Thursday, March 18, 2021 1:49:58 PM

From: Jackie Gladstone

Sent: Friday, January 29, 2021 11:59:58 AM

To: ~House Executive Departments and Administration

Cc: Carol McGuire; Terry Roy; John Sytek; Steve Pearson; Michael Yakubovich; Tony Lekas; grbailey@metrocast.net; tomlanzara@gmail.com; Santonastaso@cheshireliberty.com; Jeff Goley; Dianne Schuett; Jean Jeudy; Peter Schmidt; Kris Schultz; Sallie Fellows; Tim Fontneau; Jaci Grote; Michael O'Brien

Subject: HB209

Importance: Normal

Dear House Executive Departments and Administration Committee Members,

I am a parent and resident of Dover, NH and I am writing this comment to indicate my support of the music therapists in New Hampshire as they seek licensure. This state recognition of the music therapy profession will help ensure that consumers in our state have access to music therapy services provided by a qualified practitioner. It will serve to both protect the public and increase their ability to choose and access healthcare services that best meet their needs. Like any skilled and trained healthcare professional, music therapists need to have state recognition of their profession and credential to ensure quality service delivery for NH citizens. I urge you to support HB 209, in the establishment of licensure for music therapists in New Hampshire.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Gladstone

Dover, NH

Archived: Thursday, March 18, 2021 1:49:58 PM

From: [Katlynn Lachance](#)

Sent: Friday, January 29, 2021 11:41:23 AM

To: ~House Executive Departments and Administration; Carol McGuire; Terry Roy; John Sytek; Steve Pearson; Michael Yakubovich; Tony Lekas; grbailey@metrocast.net; tomlanzara@gmail.com; Santonastaso@cheshireliberty.com; Jeff Goley; Dianne Schuett; Jean Jeudy; Peter Schmidt; Kris Schultz; Sallie Fellows; Tim Fontneau; Jaci Grote; Michael O'Brien

Subject: Please Support HB 209!

Importance: Normal

Dear House Executive Departments and Administration Committee Members,

I am a parent residing in Dover, NH and Human Resources Manager working in Hampton, NH.

I am writing this comment to indicate my support of the music therapists in New Hampshire as they seek licensure. This state recognition of the music therapy profession will help ensure that consumers in our state have access to music therapy services provided by a qualified practitioner. It will serve to both protect the public and increase their ability to choose and access healthcare services that best meet their needs. Like any skilled and trained healthcare professional, music therapists need to have state recognition of their profession and credential to ensure quality service delivery for NH citizens. I urge you to support HB 209, in the establishment of licensure for music therapists in New Hampshire. This is a critical need for children and adults here in our great state of New Hampshire.

Sincerely,

Katlynn Poulin Lachance

Archived: Thursday, March 18, 2021 1:49:58 PM

From: [Steph Knapp](#)

Sent: Friday, January 29, 2021 10:42:46 AM

To: ~House Executive Departments and Administration

Cc: [Terry Roy](#); [John Sytek](#); [Steve Pearson](#); [Michael Yakubovich](#); [Tony Lekas](#); [grbailey@metrocast.net](#); [tomlanzara@gmail.com](#); [Santonastaso@cheshireliberty.com](#); [Jeff Goley](#); [Dianne Schuett](#); [Jean Jeudy](#); [Peter Schmidt](#); [Kris Schultz](#); [Sallie Fellows](#); [Tim Fontneau](#); [Jaci Grote](#); [Michael O'Brien](#)

Subject: HB 209

Importance: Normal

Dear House Executive Departments and Administration Committee Members,

I am an entrepreneur working in the organic horticulture trade in Rye, NH. I am writing this comment to indicate my support of the music therapists in New Hampshire as they seek licensure. This state recognition of the music therapy profession will help ensure that consumers in our state have access to music therapy services provided by a qualified practitioner. It will serve to both protect the public and increase their ability to choose and access healthcare services that best meet their needs. Like any skilled and trained healthcare professional, music therapists need to have state recognition of their profession and credential to ensure quality service delivery for NH citizens. I urge you to support HB 209, in the establishment of licensure for music therapists in New Hampshire.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Knapp

Sent from my iPhone

Archived: Thursday, March 18, 2021 1:49:58 PM

From: Alexis Thorner

Sent: Friday, January 29, 2021 10:11:45 AM

To: ~House Executive Departments and Administration

Cc: Carol McGuire; Terry Roy; John Sytek; Steve Pearson; Michael Yakubovich; Tony Lekas; grbailey@metrocast.net; tomlanzara@gmail.com; Santonastaso@cheshireliberty.com; Jeff Goley; Dianne Schuett; Jean Jeudy; Peter Schmidt; Kris Schultz; Sallie Fellows; Tim Fontneau; Jaci Grote; Michael O'Brien

Subject: HB 209- Music Therapy

Importance: Normal

Dear House Executive Departments and Administration Committee Members,

I am a school counselor working in Dover, NH. I am writing this comment to indicate my support of the music therapists in New Hampshire as they seek licensure. This state recognition of the music therapy profession will help ensure that consumers in our state have access to music therapy services provided by a qualified practitioner. It will serve to both protect the public and increase their ability to choose and access healthcare services that best meet their needs. Like any skilled and trained healthcare professional, music therapists need to have state recognition of their profession and credential to ensure quality service delivery for NH citizens. I urge you to support HB 209, in the establishment of licensure for music therapists in New Hampshire.

Sincerely,

Alexis Corbin

Archived: Thursday, March 18, 2021 1:49:58 PM

From: Hayley Parsons

Sent: Friday, January 29, 2021 10:02:55 AM

To: ~House Executive Departments and Administration

Cc: Carol McGuire; Terry Roy; John Sytek; Steve Pearson; Michael Yakubovich; Tony Lekas; grbailey@metrocast.net; tomlanzara@gmail.com; Santonastaso@CheshireLiberty.com; Jeff Goley; Dianne Schuett; Jean Jeudy; Peter Schmidt; Kris Schultz; Sallie Fellows; Tim Fontneau; Jaci Grote; Michael O'Brien

Subject: Please Support HB 209

Importance: Normal

Dear House Executive Departments and Administration Committee Members,

I am a school counselor working in the Seabrook School District in Seabrook, NH. I am writing this comment to indicate my support of the music therapists in New Hampshire as they seek licensure. This state recognition of the music therapy profession will help ensure that consumers in our state have access to music therapy services provided by a qualified practitioner. It will serve to both protect the public and increase their ability to choose and access healthcare services that best meet their needs. Like any skilled and trained healthcare professional, music therapists need to have state recognition of their profession and credential to ensure quality service delivery for NH citizens. I urge you to support HB 209, in the establishment of licensure for music therapists in New Hampshire.

Sincerely,

Hayley Parsons

Hayley Parsons, M.Ed.
Student Assistance Counselor
Seacoast Youth Services
hayley@sys-nh.org
603-918-8909

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Archived: Thursday, March 18, 2021 1:49:58 PM

From: [Tori Stowell](#)

Sent: Friday, January 29, 2021 9:58:49 AM

To: ~House Executive Departments and Administration

Cc: [Carol McGuire](#); [Terry Roy](#); [John Sytek](#); [Steve Pearson](#); [Michael Yakubovich](#); [Tony Lekas](#); [grbailey@metrocast.net](#); [tomlanzara@gmail.com](#); [Santonastaso@cheshireliberty.com](#); [Jeff Goley](#); [Dianne Schuett](#); [Jean Jeudy](#); [Peter Schmidt](#); [Kris Schultz](#); [Sallie Fellows](#); [Tim Fontneau](#); [Jaci Grote](#); [Michael O'Brien](#)

Subject: Music Therapy State Licensure

Importance: Normal

Dear House Executive Departments and Administration Committee Members,

I am a Music Therapist and Administrator working at the Nashua Community Music School in Nashua, New Hampshire. I am writing this comment to indicate my support of the music therapists in New Hampshire as they seek licensure. This state recognition of the music therapy profession will help ensure that consumers in our state have access to music therapy services provided by a qualified practitioner. It will serve to both protect the public and increase their ability to choose and access healthcare services that best meet their needs. Like any skilled and trained healthcare professional, music therapists need to have state recognition of their profession and credential to ensure quality service delivery for NH citizens. I urge you to support HB 209, in the establishment of licensure for music therapists in New Hampshire.

Sincerely,

Victoria Stowell

--

Victoria Stowell, MT-BC

Archived: Thursday, March 18, 2021 1:49:58 PM
From: [Deborah L. Bennett](#)
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 7:42:28 PM
To: [~House Executive Departments and Administration](#)
Subject: RE: HB209 Licensure and regulation of music therapists
Importance: Normal

The wording of the current bill concerns me. Individuals with communication disorders may benefit from music therapy, but music therapy must not be construed as treatment for any communication disorder.

For example, a child with cerebral palsy who has a speech impediment secondary to dysarthria may benefit from music therapy, but such therapy is not a treatment for dysarthria.

An individual with a voice disorder secondary to vocal cord paresis may benefit from music therapy, but such therapy is not a treatment for vocal cord paresis.

A student with specific language impairment may benefit from music therapy, but such therapy is not treatment for any aspect of the language impairment.

Treatment for speech, voice, language, and related communication disorders is within the scope of practice of a speech and language pathologist. A music therapist working with a client who is under the care of a speech and language pathologist or audiologist must collaborate and discuss the music therapy treatment plan with the speech and language pathologist or audiologist, in order to provide ethical treatment and to do no harm.

I therefore request that the definition of the practice of music therapy be amended as follows:

"The practice of music therapy does not include the screening, diagnosis, or assessment of any physical, mental, or communication disorder or treatment of a communication disorder. The services of a music therapist shall not replace the services of an audiologist or speech-language pathologist."

I also request that the following provisions be added to the definition on "music therapy", section (g):

"Music therapists shall collaborate with and discuss the music therapy treatment plan with the audiologist or speech-language pathologist of a client with a communication disorder."

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah L. Bennett MS CCC-SLP

Deborah L. Bennett, MS CCC
Speech and Language Pathologist
Nottingham, NH

cell 603-491-2941
fax 603-676-7545

Treasurer
New Hampshire Speech-Language-Hearing Association

Bill as
Introduced

HB 209-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2021 SESSION

21-0293

10/08

HOUSE BILL ***209-FN***

AN ACT relative to the licensure and regulation of music therapists.

SPONSORS: Rep. McGhee, Hills. 27

COMMITTEE: Executive Departments and Administration

ANALYSIS

This bill establishes the music therapy governing board in the office of allied health professionals for the licensure and regulation of practitioners of music therapy.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty One

AN ACT relative to the licensure and regulation of music therapists.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 New Chapter; Music Therapists. Amend RSA by inserting after chapter 326-L the following
2 new chapter:

3 CHAPTER 326-M

4 MUSIC THERAPISTS

5 326-M:1 Definitions. In this chapter and RSA 328-F:

6 I. "Board" means the music therapists governing board established in RSA 328-F.

7 II. "Board certified music therapist" means an individual who holds current board
8 certification from the Certification Board for Music Therapists.

9 III. "Executive director" means the executive director of the office of professional licensure
10 and certification.

11 IV. "Music therapist" means a person licensed to practice music therapy pursuant to this
12 chapter.

13 V. "Music therapy" means the clinical and evidence based use of music interventions to
14 accomplish individualized goals for people of all ages and ability levels within a therapeutic
15 relationship by a board certified music therapist. The music therapy interventions may include,
16 music improvisation, receptive music listening, song writing, lyric discussion, music and imagery,
17 singing, music performance, learning through music, music combined with other arts, music-assisted
18 relaxation, music-based patient education, electronic music technology, adapted music intervention
19 and movement to music. The practice of music therapy does not include the screening, diagnosis, or
20 assessment of any physical, mental, or communication disorder. This term may include:

21 (a) Acceptance of clients referred for music therapy by other health care or educational
22 professionals, family members, or caregivers.

23 (b) Assessment of clients to determine appropriate music therapy services.

24 (c) Development and implementation of individualized music therapy treatment plans
25 that identify goals, objectives, and strategies of music therapy that are appropriate for clients.

26 (d) Use of music therapy techniques such as improvisation, performance, receptive
27 music listening, song writing, lyric discussion, guided imagery with music, learning through music,
28 and movement to music.

29 (e) Evaluation of a client's response to music therapy techniques and to the client's
30 individualized music therapy treatment plan.

1 (f) Any necessary modification of the client's individualized music therapy treatment
2 plan.

3 (g) Any necessary collaboration with the other health care professionals treating a client.

4 (h) Minimizing of barriers that may restrict a client's ability to receive or fully benefit
5 from music therapy services.

6 326-M:2 Prohibition on Unlicensed Practice; Professional Identification.

7 I. No person without a license as a music therapist shall use the title "music therapist" or
8 similar title or practice music therapy.

9 II. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit or restrict the practice, services, or
10 activities of the following:

11 (a) Any person licensed, certified, or regulated under the laws of this state in another
12 profession or occupation or personnel supervised by a licensed professional in this state performing
13 work, including the use of music, incidental to the practice of his or her licensed, certified, or
14 regulated profession or occupation, if that person does not represent himself or herself as a music
15 therapist; or

16 (b) Any person whose training and national certification attests to the individual's
17 preparation and ability to practice his or her certified profession or occupation, if that person does
18 not represent himself or herself as a music therapist; or

19 (c) Any practice of music therapy as an integral part of a program of study for students
20 enrolled in an accredited music therapy program, if the student does not represent himself or herself
21 as a music therapist; or

22 (d) Any person who practices music therapy under the supervision of a licensed music
23 therapist, if the person does not represent himself or herself as a music therapist.

24 326-M:3 Licensure of Music Therapists. In addition to requirements under RSA 328-F:

25 I. The board shall issue a license to an applicant for a music therapy license when such
26 applicant has completed and submitted an application upon a form and in such manner as the
27 executive director prescribes, accompanied by applicable fees, and evidence satisfactory to the board
28 that:

29 (a) The applicant is in good standing based on a review of the applicant's music therapy
30 licensure history in other jurisdictions, including a review of any alleged misconduct or neglect in the
31 practice of music therapy on the part of the applicant, and a review of the criminal background check
32 required under RSA 328-F:18-a.

33 (b) The applicant provides proof of passing the examination for board certification
34 offered by the Certification Board for Music Therapists or any successor organization or provides
35 proof that the applicant is currently a board certified music therapist.

36 II. The board shall issue a license to an applicant for a music therapist license when such
37 applicant has completed and submitted an application upon a form and in such manner as the

1 executive director prescribes, accompanied by applicable fees, and evidence satisfactory to the board
2 that the applicant is licensed and in good standing as a music therapist in another jurisdiction where
3 the qualifications required are equal to or greater than those required in this chapter at the date of
4 application.

5 326-M:4 Music Therapists Governing Board; Duties. In addition to the duties of a governing
6 board under RSA 328-F:

7 I. The board may facilitate the development of materials that the office of professional
8 licensure and certification may utilize to educate the public concerning music therapist licensure, the
9 benefits of music therapy, and utilization of music therapy by individuals and in facilities or
10 institutional settings.

11 II. The board may act as a facilitator of statewide dissemination of information between
12 music therapists, the American Music Therapy Association or any successor organization, the
13 Certification Board for Music Therapists or any successor organization, and the executive director.

14 III. The executive director shall seek the advice of the board for issues related to the
15 regulation of music therapists.

16 2 Allied Health Professionals; Definition; Governing Board. Amend RSA 328-F:2, II to read as
17 follows:

18 II. "Governing boards" means individual licensing boards of athletic trainers, occupational
19 therapy assistants, occupational therapists, recreational therapists, physical therapists, physical
20 therapist assistants, respiratory care practitioners, speech-language pathologists, [~~and~~] genetic
21 counselors, **and music therapists**.

22 3 New Paragraph; Allied Health Professionals; Music Therapists. Amend RSA 328-F:2 by
23 inserting after paragraph X the following new paragraph:

24 XI. "Music therapist" means music therapist as defined in RSA 326-M:1.

25 4 Governing Board; Establishment. Amend RSA 328-F:3, I to read as follows:

26 I. There shall be established governing boards of athletic trainers, occupational therapists,
27 recreational therapists, respiratory care practitioners, physical therapists, speech-language
28 pathologists, [~~and~~] genetic counselors, **and music therapists**.

29 5 New Paragraph; Music Therapists Governing Board; Appointment. Amend RSA 328-F:4 by
30 inserting after paragraph X the following new paragraph:

31 XI. The music therapists governing board shall consist of 3 licensed music therapists, who
32 have actively engaged in the practice of music therapy in this state for at least 2 years, one member
33 who is a licensed health care provider who is not a music therapist, and one public member. Initial
34 appointment of professional members by the governor and council shall be qualified persons
35 practicing music therapy in this state. All subsequent appointments or reappointments shall require
36 licensure.

37 6 Renewals; Reference to Music Therapists Added. Amend RSA 328-F:19, I to read as follows:

HB 209-FN - AS INTRODUCED

- Page 4 -

1 I. Initial licenses and renewals shall be valid for 2 years, except that timely and complete
2 application for license renewal by eligible applicants shall continue the validity of the licenses being
3 renewed until the governing board has acted on the renewal application. Licenses issued pursuant
4 to RSA 328-A, RSA 326-G, [~~and~~] RSA 326-J, **and RSA 326-M** shall expire in even-numbered years
5 and licenses issued pursuant to RSA 326-C, RSA 326-E, RSA 326-F, and RSA 326-K shall expire in
6 odd-numbered years.

7 7 Office of Professional Licensure and Certification; New Classified Position; Appropriation.

8 I. One program assistant II position, labor grade 15, is hereby established as a classified
9 position in the office of professional licensure and certification.

10 II. The amount necessary to pay for the position established in paragraph I and for the per
11 diem and travel reimbursement as required under RSA 328-F:6 for the music therapy governing
12 board established in this act is hereby appropriated to the executive director of the office of
13 professional licensure and certification. Salaries and necessary expenses shall be a charge against
14 the office of professional licensure and certification fund established in RSA 310-A:1-e.

15 8 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.

Fiscal Note

**HB 209-FN FISCAL NOTE
 AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT relative to the licensure and regulation of music therapists.

FISCAL IMPACT: State County Local None

| STATE: | Estimated Increase / (Decrease) | | | |
|------------------------|---|----------|----------|----------|
| | FY 2021 | FY 2022 | FY 2023 | FY 2024 |
| Appropriation | \$0 | \$65,460 | \$68,460 | \$71,460 |
| Revenue | \$0 | \$24,500 | \$2,500 | \$22,000 |
| Expenditures | \$0 | \$65,460 | \$68,460 | \$71,460 |
| Funding Source: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Highway <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other - Office of Professional Licensure and Certification Fund (RSA 310-A:1-e,I(b)) and Criminal Records Check Fund (RSA 106-B:7,II) | | | |

METHODOLOGY:

This bill requires the licensure of individuals engaged in music therapy beginning July 1, 2021 and establishes a 5 member governing board within the office of allied health professionals. The bill establishes a new classified position of program assistant II (labor grade 15) to assist the board in its duties. The bill appropriates funds for the salary and benefits of the position and for the per diem and mileage expenses of board members from the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification Fund (OPLC) established in RSA 310-A:1-e.

The OPLC estimates the salary and benefits for the new full-time position to cost \$60,000 in FY22, \$63,000 in FY23 and \$66,000 in FY24.

The OPLC estimates the 5 member board would meet 12 times per year, with expenses for annual per diem and mileage totaling \$5,460 per year, as shown below:

$$5 \text{ members} \times 12 \text{ meetings} \times \$50 \text{ per diem} = \$3,000$$

$$5 \text{ members} \times 12 \text{ meetings} \times \$41 \text{ average mileage reimbursement} = \$2,460$$

The OPLC estimates that approximately 200 licenses would be granted. Such licenses would be renewed every 2 years and all allied health initial licenses are currently set at \$110 payable

biennially. This amount would generate \$22,000 in license revenue every 2 years ($\$110 \times 200 = \$22,000$).

The bill prohibits the practice of music therapy without a license but there is no penalty. The addition of this license category also subjects licensees to the allied health criminal records check provision pursuant to RSA 328-F:18-a and performed by the Department of Safety. The \$25 fee associated with such checks is payable by the license applicant. Based on the OPLC estimate of 200 applicants, potential initial revenue of \$5,000 would be generated for the Criminal Records Check Fund pursuant to RSA 106-B:7, II, with an indeterminable amount thereafter based on an unknown number of new applicants.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Office of Professional Licensure and Certification

**HB 209-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT relative to the licensure and regulation of music therapists.

FISCAL IMPACT: State County Local None

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AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Office of Professional Licensure and Certification