

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 88

(Senator Gile)

Finance

Health

**State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-
Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists - Authority to Issue Limited
Licenses to Practice Music Therapy**

This bill authorizes the State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists to issue a limited license to practice music therapy. The purpose of the limited license is to allow an individual to practice music therapy while completing the requirements for full licensure. A limited licensee must practice under the supervision of a fully licensed music therapist. A limited license is valid for one year but can be renewed for one additional year if the holder (1) meets the requirements for limited licensure, (2) applies for renewal, and (3) pays the renewal fee. If the holder of a limited license fails to receive a full license within two years of receiving a limited license, the individual must wait at least one year before reapplying for another limited license.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The board can issue limited licenses using existing budgeted resources. License and renewal fees are not anticipated to meaningfully impact board special fund revenues.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The board must issue a limited license to practice music therapy to an applicant who (1) meets all full licensure requirements except for the examination; (2) demonstrates to the board that the applicant will only practice under the supervision of a fully licensed music therapist for the term of the limited license; (3) submits an application to the board; and (4) pays the application fee.

Current Law: “Board certified music therapist” means an individual who (1) has completed the education and clinical training requirements established by the American Music Therapy Association (AMTA), and (2) holds current board certification from the Certification Board for Music Therapists (CBMT).

“Practice of music therapy” means the clinical and evidence-based use of music therapy to accomplish individualized goals for individuals of all ages and ability levels within a therapeutic relationship. The term does not include the screening, diagnosis, or assessment of any physical, mental, or communication disorder.

To qualify for a full license in music therapy, an applicant must be at least 18 years old and of good moral character. The applicant must:

- be a board-certified music therapist and provide proof that the applicant has either passed the examination for board certification offered by CBMT (or any successor organization), or is being transitioned into board certification, as well as proof that the applicant is currently a board-certified music therapist;
- hold a bachelor’s degree or higher in music therapy, or its equivalent, including clinical training, from an educational program that is approved by AMTA (or any successor organization) and within an accredited college or university;
- be in good standing based on a review of the applicant’s licensure, certification, or registration history in other jurisdictions; and
- meet any other requirements established by the board.

To apply for a license, an applicant must (1) submit an application to the board; (2) pay the application fee set by the board; and (3) submit to a criminal history records check.

The board currently issues limited licenses to audiologists, hearing aid dispensers, speech-language pathologists, and speech-language pathology assistants under similar conditions.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: HB 7 (Delegate Guzzone) - Health.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

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Analysis by: Eliana R. Prober

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510