

# SENATE BILL 88

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(PRE-FILED)

6lr0807  
CF HB 7

By: Senator Gile

Requested: September 9, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

## 1 AN ACT concerning

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

5 FOR the purpose of authorizing the State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing  
6 Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists to issue a  
7 limited license to practice music therapy; and generally relating to issuing limited  
8 licenses and the State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers,  
9 Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
11 Article – Health Occupations  
12 Section 2-4A-01  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

15 BY adding to  
16 Article – Health Occupations  
17 Section 2-4A-11.1  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

20 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
21 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

## Article – Health Occupations

23 2-4A-01.

24 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

**EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law**



(b) "Board certified music therapist" means an individual who:

(1) Has completed the education and clinical training requirements established by the American Music Therapy Association; and

4 (2) Holds current board certification from the Certification Board for Music  
5 Therapists.

6 (c) "Individualized music therapy treatment plan" means a music therapy  
7 treatment plan for a client that identifies the goals, objectives, and potential strategies for  
8 the music therapy services appropriate for the client using music therapy interventions,  
9 including:

(1) Music improvisation;

(2) Receptive music listening;

### (3) Songwriting;

#### (4) Lyric discussion;

## (5) Music and imagery;

(6) Music performance;

(7) Learning through music; and

(8) Movement to music.

(d) (1) "License" means a license issued by the Board to engage in the practice of therapy.

20 (2) "LICENSE" INCLUDES, UNLESS THE CONTEXT REQUIRES  
21 OTHERWISE, A LIMITED LICENSE.

22 (e) "Licensed professional music therapist" or "licensee" means an individual who  
23 is licensed by the Board to engage in the practice of music therapy.

24 (f) "LIMITED LICENSE" MEANS A LICENSE ISSUED BY THE BOARD TO  
25 PRACTICE MUSIC THERAPY AS LIMITED BY § 2-4A-11.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

26 (G) (1) "Practice of music therapy" means the clinical and evidence-based use  
27 of music therapy interventions to accomplish individualized goals for individuals of all ages  
28 and ability levels within a therapeutic relationship.

(2) "Practice of music therapy" includes:

(i) Accepting referrals for music therapy services from:

1. Medical, developmental, mental health, or education

## 2. Family members;

### 3. Clients;

#### 4. Caregivers; or

5. Others involved with the provision of and authorized to

10 (ii) Collaborating with a client's treatment team to review the  
11 client's diagnosis, treatment needs, and treatment plan before providing music therapy  
12 services to a client for an identified clinical or developmental need;

13 (iii) Collaborating with a client's treatment team during the  
14 provision of music therapy services to the client, including collaborating with and  
15 discussing the music therapy treatment plan with the audiologist or speech-language  
16 pathologist of a client with a communication disorder so that a music therapist may work  
17 with the client and address communication skills;

18 (iv) Conducting a music therapy assessment of a client to collect  
19 systematic, comprehensive, and accurate information necessary to determine the  
20 appropriate type of music therapy services to provide for the client;

21 (v) Developing an individualized music therapy treatment plan for  
22 a client that is based on the music therapy assessment;

23 (vi) Implementing an individualized music therapy treatment plan  
24 that:

30 (vii) Evaluating a client's response to music therapy and the  
31 individualized music therapy treatment plan, documenting change and progress, and  
32 suggesting modifications, as appropriate;

1 (viii) Developing a plan for determining when the provision of music  
2 therapy services is no longer needed in collaboration with a client, the client's physician or  
3 another provider of health care or education for the client, an appropriate member of the  
4 client's family, and any other appropriate individual on whom the client relies for support;

5 (ix) Minimizing any barriers to ensure that a client receives music  
6 therapy services in the least restrictive environment;

11 (xi) Using appropriate knowledge and skills, including research,  
12 reasoning, and problem-solving skills, to inform practice and determine appropriate  
13 actions in the context of each specific clinical setting.

16 2-4A-11.1.

17 (A) SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION, THE BOARD SHALL  
18 ISSUE A LIMITED LICENSE TO PRACTICE MUSIC THERAPY TO AN APPLICANT WHO:

(1) EXCEPT FOR THE EXAMINATION, MEETS THE LICENSE REQUIREMENTS UNDER § 2-4A-06 OF THIS SUBTITLE;

25 (3) SUBMITS AN APPLICATION TO THE BOARD ON THE FORM THAT  
26 THE BOARD REQUIRES; AND

27 (4) PAYS THE BOARD THE APPLICATION FEE SET BY THE BOARD.

28           **(B) (1)** THE PURPOSE OF A LIMITED LICENSE IS TO PERMIT AN  
29 INDIVIDUAL TO PRACTICE MUSIC THERAPY WHILE COMPLETING THE LICENSING  
30 REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SUBTITLE.

1                   **(C) A LIMITED LICENSE EXPIRES ON THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF ITS**  
2 **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

3                   **(D) THE BOARD MAY RENEW THE LIMITED LICENSE ONCE FOR AN**  
4 **ADDITIONAL 1-YEAR TERM, IF THE HOLDER:**

5                   **(1) OTHERWISE MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION;**

6                   **(2) SUBMITS A RENEWAL APPLICATION TO THE BOARD ON THE FORM**  
7 **THAT THE BOARD REQUIRES; AND**

8                   **(3) PAYS TO THE BOARD A LIMITED LICENSE RENEWAL FEE SET BY**  
9 **THE BOARD.**

10                  **(E) IF THE HOLDER OF A LIMITED LICENSE FAILS TO RECEIVE A FULL**  
11 **LICENSE WITHIN 2 YEARS AFTER THE INITIAL LIMITED LICENSE WAS ISSUED, THE**  
12 **INDIVIDUAL SHALL WAIT A MINIMUM OF 1 YEAR BEFORE APPLYING FOR ANOTHER**  
13 **LIMITED LICENSE.**

14                  SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
15 October 1, 2026.