

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to music therapy; creating part XVII  
3       of ch. 468, F.S., entitled "Music Therapy"; creating  
4       s. 468.8501, F.S.; defining terms; creating s.  
5       468.8502, F.S.; creating the Music Therapy Advisory  
6       Committee within the Department of Health for a  
7       specified purpose; providing for membership and  
8       meetings of the committee; authorizing the committee  
9       to facilitate the development of certain materials and  
10      act as a facilitator of statewide dissemination of  
11      information between certain entities; requiring the  
12      committee to provide an annual analysis of certain  
13      licensure data; requiring the department to seek the  
14      advice of the committee on issues relating to music  
15      therapy; providing for future legislative review and  
16      repeal of the committee; creating s. 468.8503, F.S.;  
17      requiring the department to issue a license to  
18      practice as a professional music therapist to  
19      applicants meeting specified criteria; providing for  
20      licensure by endorsement; providing for licensure  
21      renewal; providing that licensees are responsible for  
22      the timely renewal of their licenses; requiring  
23      licensees to inform the department of any change in  
24      their address within a specified timeframe; providing  
25      for expiration and termination of licenses; requiring

the department to place an active license on an inactive status upon written request of a licensee; authorizing a license to remain on inactive status for a specified timeframe; providing for reactivation of such licenses; creating s. 468.8504, F.S.; specifying collaboration requirements for licensees engaging in the practice of music therapy; providing construction; creating s. 468.8505, F.S.; beginning on a specified date, prohibiting unlicensed individuals from using specified titles related to the practice of music therapy; providing exceptions; authorizing unlicensed individuals meeting specified criteria to practice without a license under the supervision of a licensed professional music therapist for a specified timeframe; creating s. 468.8506, F.S.; providing grounds for disciplinary action; authorizing the department to conduct investigations of alleged misconduct; providing administrative penalties; creating s. 468.8507, F.S.; requiring the department to adopt rules by a specified date; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

**Section 1.** Part XVII of chapter 468, Florida Statutes,

51 consisting of ss. 468.8501-468.8507, Florida Statutes, is  
52 created and entitled "Music Therapy."

53 **Section 2. Section 468.8501, Florida Statutes, is created**  
54 **to read:**

55 468.8501 Definitions.—As used in this part, the term:

56 (1) "Advisory committee" means the Music Therapy Advisory  
57 Committee.

58 (2) "Board-certified music therapist" means an individual  
59 who holds current board certification from the Certification  
60 Board for Music Therapists.

61 (3) "Department" means the Department of Health.

62 (4) "Licensed professional music therapist" means a person  
63 licensed under this part to practice music therapy.

64 (5) "Practice of music therapy" means clinical and  
65 evidence-based music interventions used by a board-certified  
66 music therapist within a therapeutic relationship to accomplish  
67 individualized goals for people of all ages and ability levels.  
68 The term includes all of the following:

69 (a) Accepting referrals for music therapy services from  
70 medical, developmental, mental health, or education  
71 professionals; family members; clients; caregivers; or other  
72 professionals authorized to provide client services.

73 (b) Conducting music therapy assessments of clients to  
74 determine whether treatment is indicated. If treatment is  
75 indicated, the term includes the collection of systematic,

76 comprehensive, and accurate information to determine the  
77 appropriateness and type of music therapy services to provide  
78 for the client.

79 (c) Development of music therapy treatment plans  
80 individualized to the needs and strengths of the specific  
81 client, who may be seen individually or in groups, based upon  
82 the results of the music therapy assessment as well as the  
83 goals, objectives, and potential strategies for music therapy  
84 services to achieve such goals in a manner appropriate for the  
85 client and setting.

86 (d) Use of interventions such as music improvisation,  
87 receptive music listening, song writing, lyric discussion, music  
88 and imagery, singing, music performance, learning through music,  
89 music combined with other arts, music-assisted relaxation,  
90 music-based patient education, electronic music technology,  
91 adapted music intervention, and movement to music.

92 (e) Implementing an individualized music therapy treatment  
93 plan consistent with any other developmental, rehabilitative,  
94 habilitative, medical, mental health, preventive, wellness care,  
95 or educational services being provided to the client.

96 (f) Evaluating the client's response to music therapy and  
97 the music therapy treatment plan, documenting changes and  
98 progress, and suggesting modifications, as appropriate.

99 (g) Developing a plan, in collaboration with the client, a  
100 physician or other provider of health care or education to the

101 client, family members of the client, and any other appropriate  
102 person upon whom the client relies for support, for determining  
103 when the provision of music therapy services is no longer  
104 needed.

105 (h) Minimizing any barriers to ensure that the client  
106 receives music therapy services in the least restrictive  
107 environment.

108 (i) Collaborating with and educating the client and the  
109 family, caregiver of the client, or any other appropriate person  
110 regarding the needs of the client which are being addressed in  
111 music therapy and the manner in which the music therapy  
112 treatment addresses those needs.

113 (j) Using appropriate knowledge and skills to inform  
114 practice, including use of research, reasoning, and problem-  
115 solving skills to determine appropriate actions in the context  
116 of each specific clinical setting.

117  
118 The term does not include the screening, diagnosis, or  
119 assessment of any physical, mental, or communication disorder.

120 **Section 3. Section 468.8502, Florida Statutes, is created**  
121 **to read:**

122 468.8502 Music Therapy Advisory Committee.—

123 (1) There is created within the department the Music  
124 Therapy Advisory Committee to advise the department on its  
125 duties under this part.

126        (2) The committee shall consist of five members appointed  
127 by the State Surgeon General to serve staggered 4-year terms.

128        (a) Members must be familiar with the practice of music  
129 therapy in order to serve on the committee. Three members must  
130 be licensed professional music therapists under this part, one  
131 member must be a licensed health care practitioner who is not a  
132 licensed professional music therapist, and one member must be a  
133 consumer. The initial appointments to the committee shall  
134 consist of three music therapists who are not licensed under  
135 this part but who have been engaged in their respective  
136 practices for at least 3 years preceding the appointment. Once  
137 licensing under this part is implemented, music therapists  
138 appointed to the committee must hold the requisite license.

139        (b) Members may serve consecutive terms at the will of the  
140 State Surgeon General. Any vacancy shall be filled in the same  
141 manner as the original appointment.

142        (c) Members shall serve without compensation but are  
143 entitled to reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses  
144 pursuant to s. 112.061.

145        (3) The committee shall meet at least once per year and  
146 upon the call of the State Surgeon General.

147        (4) The committee may facilitate the development of  
148 materials that the department may use to educate the public  
149 concerning professional music therapist licensure, the benefits  
150 of music therapy, and the use of music therapy by individuals

151 and in facilities or institutional settings.

152 (5) The committee may act as a facilitator of statewide  
153 dissemination of information between music therapists, the  
154 American Music Therapy Association or any successor  
155 organization, the Certification Board for Music Therapists or  
156 any successor organization, and the department.

157 (6) The committee shall provide analysis of disciplinary  
158 actions taken, appeals and denials, or revocation of licenses at  
159 least once per year.

160 (7) The department shall seek the advice of the committee  
161 for issues related to music therapy which come before the  
162 department.

163 (8) In accordance with s. 20.052(8), this section is  
164 repealed October 2, 2029, unless reviewed and saved from repeal  
165 through reenactment by the Legislature.

166 **Section 4. Section 468.8503, Florida Statutes, is created**  
167 **to read:**

168 468.8503 Licensure of music therapists.—

169 (1) The department shall issue a license to practice as a  
170 professional music therapist to an applicant who meets all of  
171 the following requirements:

172 (a) Has submitted a completed application in a form and  
173 manner prescribed by department rule.

174 (b) Is at least 18 years of age.

175 (c) Holds a minimum of a bachelor's degree in a music

176 therapy program, or its equivalent, including clinical training  
177 hours, from an accredited college or university.

178 (d) If applicable, is in good standing based on a review  
179 of the applicant's music therapy licensure history in other  
180 jurisdictions, including a review of any alleged misconduct or  
181 negligence in the practice of music therapy on the part of the  
182 applicant.

183 (e) Provides proof of passing the examination for board  
184 certification offered by the Certification Board for Music  
185 Therapists or its successor organization and provides proof that  
186 the applicant is currently a board-certified music therapist or  
187 in the process of being transitioned to board-certified status.

188 (2) The department shall issue a license by endorsement to  
189 practice as a professional music therapist to an applicant who  
190 has submitted a completed application in a form and manner as  
191 prescribed by department rule and provides evidence satisfactory  
192 to the department that he or she is licensed and in good  
193 standing as a music therapist in another jurisdiction and that  
194 the qualifications required for licensure in that jurisdiction  
195 are equal to or greater than those required by this part at the  
196 date of application.

197 (3) Professional music therapist licenses must be renewed  
198 biennially. Each licensee is responsible for timely renewal of  
199 his or her license. The department shall renew a professional  
200 music therapist license upon submission of a renewal application

201 and proof of maintenance of the applicant's status as a board-  
202 certified music therapist. The department may not renew a  
203 license if the applicant is in violation of any provision of  
204 this part at the time of application for renewal.

205 (4) A licensee shall inform the department of any changes  
206 to his or her address within 30 days after the change.

207 (5) Failure to renew a license shall result in expiration  
208 of the license. Expired licenses may be restored within 1 year  
209 after the expiration date. Failure to restore an expired license  
210 within 1 year after the date of its expiration results in the  
211 automatic termination of the license, after which the individual  
212 must reapply for a new license in order to practice under this  
213 part.

214 (6) Upon written request of a licensee, the department  
215 shall place an active license on an inactive status. The  
216 licensee, upon request, may continue on inactive status for a  
217 period up to 2 years. An inactive license may be reactivated at  
218 any time by making a written request to the department and by  
219 fulfilling the applicable requirements for licensure under this  
220 section.

221 **Section 5. Section 468.8504, Florida Statutes, is created**  
222 **to read:**

223 468.8504 Practice standards; collaboration.—

224 (1) Before a licensed professional music therapist  
225 provides music therapy services to a client for an identified

226 clinical or developmental need, the licensee shall review the  
227 client's diagnosis, treatment needs, and treatment plan with the  
228 health care providers involved in the client's care. Before a  
229 licensed professional music therapist provides music therapy  
230 services to a student for an identified educational need in a  
231 special education setting, the licensee shall review with the  
232 individualized family service plan team or individualized  
233 education program team the student's diagnosis, treatment needs,  
234 and treatment plan.

235 (2) During the provision of music therapy services to a  
236 client, the licensed professional music therapist shall  
237 collaborate, as applicable, with the client's treatment team,  
238 including the client's physician, psychologist, licensed  
239 clinical social worker, or other mental health professional, if  
240 any.

241 (3) During the provision of music therapy services to a  
242 client with a communication disorder, the licensed professional  
243 music therapist shall collaborate and discuss the music therapy  
244 treatment plan with the client's audiologist or speech-language  
245 pathologist so that the music therapist may work with the client  
246 and address communication skills. When providing educational or  
247 health care services, a licensed professional music therapist  
248 may not replace the services provided by an audiologist or a  
249 speech-language pathologist. Unless authorized to practice  
250 speech-language pathology, music therapists may not evaluate,

examine, instruct, or counsel on speech, language,  
communication, and swallowing disorders and conditions. An  
individual licensed as a professional music therapist may not  
represent to the public that the individual is authorized to  
treat a communication disorder. This subsection does not  
prohibit an individual licensed as a professional music  
therapist from representing to the public that the individual  
may work with clients who have a communication disorder and  
address communication skills.

**Section 6. Section 468.8505, Florida Statutes, is created to read:**

468.8505 Unlicensed practice prohibited; exemptions.—

(1) Beginning January 1, 2027, a person without a license  
as a professional music therapist is prohibited from using the  
title "music therapist," "licensed professional music  
therapist," or similar title to practice music therapy. This  
section may not be construed to prohibit or restrict any of the  
following:

(a) A person licensed, certified, or regulated under the  
laws of this state in another profession or occupation,  
including, but not limited to, physicians, psychologists,  
psychoanalysts, registered nurses, marriage and family  
therapists, mental health counselors, social workers,  
occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists or  
audiologists, or personnel supervised by a licensed

professional, performing work, including the use of music,  
incidental to the practice of his or her licensed, certified, or  
regulated profession or occupation, if that person does not  
represent himself or herself as a professional music therapist.

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

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

(2) A person who is not a licensed professional music  
therapist may provide music therapy under the supervision of a  
licensed professional music therapist for a period not to exceed  
180 days after the start of practice if:

(a) The person's application to obtain board certification  
is pending; and

(b) The person meets the remaining requirements for  
licensure under this part.

**Section 7. Section 468.8506, Florida Statutes, is created**  
**to read:**

468.8506 Discipline.—

(1) The following acts constitute grounds for denial of a

license or for disciplinary action, as applicable:

(a) Failing to comply with the requirements for licensure, including, but not limited to, failing to maintain board certification as a music therapist; failing to provide updated information to the department in a timely manner; or making misleading, untrue, deceptive, or fraudulent representations on an initial or renewal licensure application.

(b) Failing to provide requested information to the department in a timely manner.

(c) Being convicted of a felony.

(d) Being convicted of any crime that reflects an inability to practice music therapy with due regard for the health and safety of clients and patients or with due regard for the truth in filing claims with Medicare, Medicaid, or any third-party payor.

(e) Being unable or failing to practice music therapy with reasonable skill and consistent with the welfare of clients, including, but not limited to, by being negligent in the practice of music therapy, being intoxicated, being incapacitated, abusing a client, or engaging in sexual contact with a client.

(f) Having disciplinary action taken against a license to practice music therapy by another jurisdiction.

(g) Violating any provision of this part.

(2) The department may conduct investigations into

326 allegations of misconduct described in subsection (1).

327 (3) The department may impose one or more of the following  
328 sanctions for a violation of this part:

329 (a) Suspension, revocation, or denial of a license.

330 (b) Refusal to renew a license.

331 (c) Probation with conditions.

332 (d) A reprimand.

333 (e) A fine of not less than \$100 and not more than \$1,000  
334 for each violation.

335 **Section 8. Section 468.8507, Florida Statutes, is created**  
336 **to read:**

337 468.8507 Rules.—By October 1, 2026, the department shall  
338 adopt rules to implement this part.

339 **Section 9.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.