

# Please Support Senate Bill 1198

## Legislation to License Illinois 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 Illinois use music and music-based experiences to improve quality of life for Illinois residents.***

Music therapists are independently certified through the Certification Board for Music Therapists after completing a bachelor's degree or higher from a music therapy degree program approved by the American Music Therapy Association, 1200 hours of clinical training, and passing a national board exam. A qualified music therapist will hold the credential "MT-BC."

### ***What is SB 1198?***

Senate Bill 1198 is legislation that will provide licensure for board-certified music therapists through the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation.

### ***Why are we asking you to support SB 1198?***

#### **To protect consumers —**

Ensures protection for the public by requiring individuals to meet national standards if individuals present themselves as music therapists.

#### **Illinois residents can gain easier access to music therapy services —**

States outline qualifications for employment and inclusion in state programs. State licensure will help ensure that residents 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.

#### **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.

#### **To avoid confusion —**

- Official state recognition of the MT-BC credential will help healthcare facilities (which rely upon state regulations) address the confusion regarding the difference between music therapists, music practitioners, music thanatologists, and other non-music therapy musicians in healthcare. SB 1198 does include exemption language that protects the right of other professions to use music in their practice, as long as they do not claim to provide music therapy services or to be a music therapist.

***Questions? Contact Nancy Swanson, MA, MT-BC at [ilmtrecognitiontaskforce@gmail.com](mailto:ilmtrecognitiontaskforce@gmail.com)***

For information about 60+ years of music therapy, please visit the American Music Therapy Association, [www.musictherapy.org](http://www.musictherapy.org) and the Certification Board for Music Therapists, [www.cbmt.org](http://www.cbmt.org)

***Thank you for your support of SB 1198.***