

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1733 Session of 2025

INTRODUCED BY BRIGGS, HILL-EVANS, SANCHEZ, BURGOS, GIRAL, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, KHAN, GUENST, MALAGARI, HOHENSTEIN, HOWARD, NEILSON, FREEMAN, CIRESI, WAXMAN AND GREEN, JULY 14, 2025

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, JULY 14, 2025

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of July 9, 1987 (P.L.220, No.39), entitled "An  
2 act licensing and regulating the practice of social work;  
3 providing penalties; and making an appropriation," further  
4 providing for legislative intent, for definitions, for  
5 license required, for State Board of Social Workers, Marriage  
6 and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors, for powers  
7 and functions of board, for qualifications for license, for  
8 procedures for licensing, for exemption from licensure  
9 examination, for reciprocity, for endorsement of out-of-State  
10 licenses and for reinstatement of license; providing for  
11 restriction on use of title "licensed professional art  
12 therapist" and related titles; and further providing for  
13 penalties, for license renewal, records and fees and for  
14 unlawful practice.

15 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
16 hereby enacts as follows:

17 Section 1. Section 2 of the act of July 9, 1987 (P.L.220,  
18 No.39), known as the Social Workers, Marriage and Family  
19 Therapists and Professional Counselors Act, is amended to read:

20 Section 2. Legislative intent.

21 The practice of social work, marriage and family therapy  
22 [and], professional counseling and professional art therapy  
23 within this Commonwealth is hereby declared to affect the public

1 safety and welfare and to be subject to regulation and control  
2 in the public interest to protect the public from  
3 unprofessional, improper, unauthorized and unqualified practice  
4 of licensed social work, licensed marriage and family therapy  
5 [and], licensed professional counseling and licensed  
6 professional art therapy. This act regulates only those who hold  
7 themselves out as licensed social workers, licensed clinical  
8 social workers, licensed marriage and family therapists [or as],  
9 licensed professional counselors or as licensed professional art  
10 therapists. Acquisition of a license under this act shall not be  
11 made a condition of the employment of a person by the  
12 Commonwealth or any of its political subdivisions or by  
13 nonprofit agencies.

14 Section 2. The definitions of "board" and "diagnosis" in  
15 section 3 of the act are amended and the section is amended by  
16 adding definitions to read:

17 Section 3. Definitions.

18 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
19 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
20 context clearly indicates otherwise:

21 "Accredited educational institution." A university or  
22 college approved by the American Art Therapy Association or  
23 accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health  
24 Education Programs.

25 \* \* \*

26 "Art therapy." The use of a specialized form of  
27 psychotherapy:

28 (1) Conducted by a professionally trained art therapist  
29 who has met the standards outlined in section 7(h) or (i) and  
30 is currently practicing under a qualified art therapy

1 supervisor.

2 (2) That is an evidence-based clinical practice,  
3 including the integration of psychological theories, art  
4 therapy theory, art-based assessment models, traditional  
5 verbal counseling techniques and the creative process to  
6 address and alleviate mental and emotional disorders and  
7 psychopathologies, improve cognitive and sensory-motor  
8 functions and support wellness through diagnosis, assessment,  
9 testing, treatment, evaluation and rehabilitation in a  
10 professional relationship.

11 "Art therapy services." The use of expressive arts media,  
12 creative techniques, nonverbal communication, psychotherapy,  
13 art-based assessment models and the creative process in a  
14 therapeutic relationship between a client and licensed  
15 professional art therapist and includes the following services:

16 (1) Evaluation, assessment and diagnosis to define and  
17 implement individualized treatment plans to address  
18 developmental, rehabilitative, habilitative, medical, mental  
19 health, preventive, wellness care or educational needs of the  
20 client.

21 (2) Therapeutic interventions to facilitate alternative  
22 modes of receptive and expressive communication that can  
23 circumvent the limitations of verbal articulation.

24 (3) Use of treatment interventions that include  
25 psychotherapy or counseling integrated with art therapy  
26 theory, the creative process or art media to facilitate human  
27 development and to identify and remediate mental, emotional  
28 or behavioral disorders and associated distresses that  
29 interfere with daily functioning.

30 (4) Utilizing appropriate knowledge and specialized

training in art therapy theory, art media, the creative process, the neurobiological implications of art-making, psychotherapy and counseling principles and theory and clinical decision-making skills to inform practice and determine the appropriate course of action within the therapist's scope of art therapy practice, tailored to the context of each specific clinical setting.

"Board." The State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists [and], Professional Counselors and Professional Art Therapists under the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs within the Department of State.

"Certified art therapist." An individual holding national board certification from the Art Therapy Credentials Board.

\* \* \*

"Diagnosis." The term includes the following:

(1) A clinical social work assessment, a marriage and family therapist assessment [or], a professional counselor assessment or a professional art therapy assessment.

(2) The utilization of currently accepted diagnostic classifications by a clinical social worker, a marriage and family therapist [or], a professional counselor or a professional art therapist, including, but not limited to, the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, as amended and supplemented, but only to the extent of the clinical social worker's, marriage and family therapist's [or], professional counselor's or professional art therapist's education, training, experience and scope of practice as established by this act.

"Face-to-face meeting." A meeting that is live, interactive

1 and visual. The term includes a video meeting if the meeting is  
2 synchronous and involves verbal and visual interaction.

3 "Independent practice of professional art therapy." The  
4 application of professional art therapy knowledge and skills by  
5 an individual:

6 (1) who styles oneself as a professional art therapist;

7 (2) who is not under supervision and regulates and is  
8 responsible for the individual's own practice and treatment  
9 procedures; and

10 (3) whose practice is not affiliated with any other  
11 practice, health care facility, government agency or  
12 government-regulated social service agency.

13 "Licensed associate art therapist." An individual who has  
14 met the application requirement outlined in section 7(i) and has  
15 been issued a license to practice art therapy under an approved  
16 qualified art therapy supervisor in accordance with rules of the  
17 board. An individual holding a licensed associate art therapist  
18 license is not authorized to practice autonomously and are  
19 solely permitted to deliver art therapy services so long as the  
20 individual continues to meet the supervision requirements  
21 outlined in section 7(i)(4), (5) and (6).

22 \* \* \*

23 "Licensed professional art therapist." An individual who has  
24 met the application requirements outlined in section 7(h) and  
25 has been issued a license for the independent practice of  
26 clinical art therapy in accordance with rules of the board. An  
27 individual who engages in the practice of professional art  
28 therapy and who holds a current license under this act.

29 \* \* \*

30 "Practice of professional art therapy." The integrative

application of psychotherapeutic principles and methods with  
specialized training in strategic use of art media, the  
neurobiological implications of art making and art-based  
assessment models while under the supervision of a licensed  
professional art therapist supervisor acceptable to the board in  
accordance with the board's regulations. The term includes the  
following:

(1) The evaluation, assessment, diagnosis and treatment  
of normal and abnormal cognitive, developmental, behavioral  
and emotional disorders in individuals, families and groups.

(2) Strategic application of therapeutic art  
interventions in the context of applied psychological theory  
in a psychotherapeutic relationship.

(3) Facilitation of visual, nonverbal and verbal  
receptive and expressive communication and implementation of  
treatment plans to help clients improve cognitive and sensory  
motor functions, increase self-awareness and self-esteem,  
cope with traumatic experience and grief, reduce symptoms of  
depression, anger and distress and improve educational  
performance, vocational performance and social functioning.

\* \* \*

"Practice of professional art therapy." The integrative  
application of psychotherapeutic principles and methods with  
specialized training in strategic use of art media, the  
neurobiological implications of art making and art-based  
assessment models and includes the following:

(1) The evaluation, assessment, diagnosis and treatment  
of normal and abnormal cognitive, developmental, behavioral  
and emotional disorders in individuals, families and groups.

(2) Strategic application of therapeutic art

interventions in the context of applied psychological theory in a psychotherapeutic relationship.

(3) Facilitation of visual, nonverbal and verbal receptive and expressive communication and implementation of treatment plans to help clients improve cognitive and sensory motor functions, increase self-awareness and self-esteem, cope with traumatic experience and grief, reduce symptoms of depression, anger and distress and improve educational performance, vocational performance and social functioning.

\* \* \*

"Professional art therapy assessment." The professional application of psychotherapeutic and art therapy theories and techniques to evaluate, identify and establish plans for treatment of individuals, families and groups with emotional, mental, addiction and behavioral disorders. The term includes a mental health examination and psychological history.

\* \* \*

"Qualified art therapy supervisor." An individual who:

(1) is licensed by the Commonwealth as a licensed professional art therapist; or

(2) is a licensed professional counselor, licensed clinical mental health counselor, licensed clinical social worker, licensed clinical psychologist, licensed marriage and family therapist or licensed psychiatrist and holds an active certification as a registered art therapist with board certification or art therapy credentialed supervisor.

\* \* \*

"Supervised experience." The regular oversight of the functions and activities of a graduate art therapy student either as part of an internship or practicum experience or the

practice of art therapy to fulfill the requirements to be  
licensed under this act by a qualified art therapy supervisor.

"Supervision." A formalized professional relationship  
between a qualified art therapy supervisor and supervisee in  
which the qualified art therapy supervisor directs, guides,  
monitors, instructs and evaluates the supervisee's professional  
art therapy practice while promoting the development of the  
supervisee's knowledge, skills and abilities to provide  
professional art therapy services in an ethical and competent  
manner and includes the following:

(1) An acceptance of direct responsibility for the  
client services rendered by the supervisee via face-to-face  
meetings with the supervisee.

(2) The qualified art therapy experience is under the  
order, control and full professional responsibility of a  
qualified art therapy supervisor who reviews aspects of art  
therapy practice and case management in a face-to-face  
meeting with the supervisee.

(3) The qualified art therapy supervisor ensures that  
the extent, kind and quality of art therapy performed is  
consistent with the education, training and experience of the  
supervisee.

(4) Reviewing client or patient records, monitoring and  
evaluating assessment, diagnosis and treatment decisions of  
the art therapist supervisee.

(5) Ensuring compliance with laws and regulations  
governing the practice of professional art therapy and  
licensed associate art therapy.

Section 3. Sections 4, 5 heading, (a), (k) and (l) and 6(2)  
and (3) of the act, amended March 28, 2024 (P.L.11, No.4), are



1 amended to read:

2 Section 4. License required.

3 It shall be unlawful for any person to hold oneself forth as  
4 a licensed bachelor social worker, licensed social worker,  
5 licensed clinical social worker, licensed associate marriage and  
6 family therapist, licensed marriage and family therapist,  
7 licensed associate professional counselor [or], licensed  
8 professional counselor or licensed professional art therapist  
9 unless he or she shall first have obtained a license pursuant to  
10 this act.

11 Section 5. State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family  
12 Therapists [and], Professional Counselors and  
13 Professional Art Therapists.

14 (a) Creation.--There is hereby created the State Board of  
15 Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists [and],  
16 Professional Counselors and Professional Art Therapists, a  
17 departmental administrative board in the Department of State.  
18 The board shall consist of [13] 15 members who are citizens of  
19 the United States and who have been residents of this  
20 Commonwealth for a two-year period, two of whom shall be public  
21 members; five of whom shall be licensed social workers, at least  
22 one of whom shall be a licensed clinical social worker and at  
23 least one of whom shall be a licensed social worker; two of whom  
24 shall be licensed marriage and family therapists; two of whom  
25 shall be licensed professional counselors; one of whom shall be  
26 either a licensed marriage and family therapist or a licensed  
27 professional counselor whose membership shall rotate between  
28 those professions at the expiration of the member's second term;  
29 two of whom shall be licensed professional art therapists; and  
30 one of whom shall be the Commissioner of Professional and

1 Occupational Affairs.

2 \* \* \*

3 (k) Notice.--Reasonable notice of all meetings shall be  
4 given in conformity with [the act of July 3, 1986 (P.L.388,  
5 No.84), known as the Sunshine Act] 65 Pa.C.S. Ch. 7 (relating to  
6 open meetings).

7 (l) Operating procedures.--The board shall meet within 30  
8 days after the appointment of its new members and set up  
9 operating procedures and develop application forms for licensing  
10 clinical social workers, associate marriage and family  
11 therapists, marriage and family therapists, associate  
12 professional counselors and professional counselors and  
13 professional art therapists. It shall be the responsibility of  
14 the board to circulate these forms and educate the public to the  
15 requirements of licensing in order to hold oneself out as a  
16 licensed bachelor social worker, licensed social worker,  
17 licensed associate marriage and family therapist, licensed  
18 clinical social worker, licensed marriage and family therapist,  
19 licensed associate professional counselor or licensed  
20 professional counselor within the Commonwealth.

21 Section 6. Powers and functions of board.

22 The board shall have the following powers:

23 \* \* \*

24 (2) To adopt and, from time to time, revise such rules  
25 and regulations as may be necessary to carry into effect the  
26 provisions of this act. Such regulations may include, but  
27 shall not be limited to, standards of professional practice  
28 and conduct for licensed bachelor social workers, licensed  
29 social workers, licensed clinical social workers, licensed  
30 associate marriage and family therapists, licensed marriage

1 and family therapists, licensed associate professional  
2 counselors [and] licensed professional counselors, professional art therapists and licensed associate art  
3 therapists in Pennsylvania.

5 (3) To examine for, deny, approve, issue, revoke,  
6 suspend or renew licenses of bachelor social workers, social  
7 workers, clinical social workers, associate marriage and  
8 family therapists, marriage and family therapists, associate  
9 professional counselors [and professional counselors], professional art therapists and licensed associate art  
10 therapists, professional art therapists and licensed  
11 associate art therapists pursuant to this act and to conduct  
12 hearings in connection therewith.

14 \* \* \*

15 Section 4. Section 7 of the act is amended by adding  
16 subsections to read:

17 Section 7. Qualifications for license.

18 \* \* \*

19 (h) Professional art therapist license.--An applicant shall  
20 be qualified to hold oneself out as a licensed professional art  
21 therapist if the applicant submits proof satisfactory to the  
22 board that all of the following apply:

23 (1) The applicant is at least 21 years of age.

24 (2) The applicant is of good moral character. In  
25 assessing the moral character of an applicant with a criminal  
26 conviction, the board shall conduct an individualized  
27 assessment in accordance with 63 Pa.C.S. § 3113 (relating to  
28 consideration of criminal convictions).

29 (3) The applicant has successfully met one of the  
30 following educational requirements:

1           (i) Holds a master's degree with a minimum of 60  
2           semester hours or 90 quarter hours of graduate coursework  
3           in art therapy from a program that is approved by the  
4           American Art Therapy Association or accredited by the  
5           Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education  
6           Programs at the time the degree was conferred.

7           (ii) Has successfully completed a master's degree  
8           with a minimum of 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours  
9           of graduate coursework in art therapy or a field  
10           determined by the board by regulation to be closely  
11           related to the practice of professional art therapy and  
12           has successfully completed a minimum of 30 graduate  
13           credit hours in the following subject areas: theory and  
14           practice of art therapy, art therapy media and  
15           techniques, history of art therapy, human growth and  
16           developmental dynamics in art, application of art therapy  
17           with people in different treatment settings, art therapy  
18           appraisal, diagnosis and assessment, group art therapy,  
19           ethical and legal issues of art therapy practice, matters  
20           of cultural and social diversity bearing on the practice  
21           of art therapy and standards of good art therapy practice  
22           and completed at least 700 hours of supervised internship  
23           experience.

24           (iii) Holds a doctoral degree in art therapy from an  
25           accredited educational institution or holds a doctoral  
26           degree in a field determined by the board by regulation  
27           to be closely related to the practice of professional art  
28           therapy from an accredited educational institution.

29           (4) The applicant has complied with the experience  
30           requirements as follows:

1           (i) An individual meeting the educational  
2           requirements of paragraph (3)(i) or (ii) must have  
3           completed at least 3,000 hours of supervised clinical  
4           experience, acceptable to the board as determined by  
5           regulation, which was obtained subsequent to granting of  
6           the master's degree in a period of not less than two  
7           years. Of these 3,000 total hours, at least 50% must be  
8           in direct contact with clients with demonstrated  
9           experience in diagnosing or treating mental, emotional,  
10          behavioral and addiction disorders.

11          (ii) An individual meeting the educational  
12          requirements of paragraph (3)(iii) must have completed at  
13          least 2,400 hours of supervised clinical experience,  
14          acceptable to the board as determined by regulation,  
15          1,200 hours of which was obtained subsequent to the  
16          granting of the doctoral degree.

17          (5) The applicant's postgraduate experience is completed  
18          under supervision by a licensed professional art therapist, a  
19          certified art therapist or any other licensed mental health  
20          professional acceptable to the board as determined by  
21          regulation.

22          (6) The application has been accompanied by the  
23          application fee.

24          (7) The applicant demonstrates professional competency  
25          by satisfactorily completing the Art Therapy Credentials  
26          Board Examination, or a substantially equivalent exam  
27          approved by the board.

28          (8) The applicant has not been convicted of a felony  
29          under The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic  
30          Act, or of an offense under the laws of another jurisdiction

1 which if committed in this Commonwealth would be a felony  
2 under The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic  
3 Act, unless the applicant otherwise satisfies the  
4 qualifications contained in or authorized by this act and:

5 (i) at least 10 years have elapsed from the date of  
6 conviction; or

7 (ii) the applicant satisfactorily demonstrates to  
8 the board that the applicant has made significant  
9 progress in personal rehabilitation since the conviction  
10 such that licensure of the applicant should not be  
11 expected to create a substantial risk of harm to the  
12 health and safety of clients or the public or a  
13 substantial risk of further criminal violation,  
14 in which case the board may issue a probationary license  
15 for the remainder of the 10 years required in  
16 subparagraph (i).

17 As used in this paragraph, the term "convicted" includes a  
18 judgment, an admission of guilt or a plea of nolo contendere.

19 (h.1) Authorization for licensed professional art  
20 therapists.--A licensed professional art therapist may engage in  
21 the independent practice of art therapy and is authorized to  
22 diagnose and treat mental disorders specified in the most recent  
23 edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of mental  
24 disorders of the American Psychiatric Association designated by  
25 the board by rules and regulations.

26 (i) Licensed associate art therapist.--The board shall issue  
27 an associate art therapist license to an applicant if the  
28 applicant has completed and submitted an application form in the  
29 manner as prescribed, accompanied by applicable fees, and  
30 provides evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant

1 has fulfilled the following requirements:

2 (1) Is at least 21 years of age.

3 (2) Is of good moral character. In determining moral  
4 character under this paragraph, the board may take into  
5 consideration whether the applicant has engaged in conduct or  
6 activities which would constitute grounds for discipline  
7 under this act. In assessing the moral character of an  
8 applicant with a criminal conviction, the board shall conduct  
9 an individualized assessments in accordance with 63 Pa.C.S. §  
10 3113.

11 (3) Has completed the educational and practicum or  
12 internship requirements for licensure as an associate art  
13 therapist in this Commonwealth as outlined in section 7(h)  
14 (2), (3) and (4).

15 (4) Has submitted one letter of recommendation from a  
16 qualified supervisor who has provided direct clinical  
17 supervision of the applicant's graduate program clinical  
18 training, practicum or internship attesting to the  
19 applicant's integrity, competence and moral character and  
20 completed a postgraduate supervised training plan on forms  
21 prescribed by the board describing services to be provided,  
22 place of employment, individuals responsible for clinical  
23 supervision and a statement acknowledging the license  
24 regulations and requirements. Supervision of art therapy  
25 students shall be provided by a qualified art therapy  
26 supervisor. No licensed associate art therapist shall  
27 practice art therapy without supervision by a licensed  
28 professional art therapist or a supervisor otherwise  
29 acceptable to the board. The plan for supervision of the  
30 licensed associate art therapist shall be approved in writing

1 by the committee prior to any actual performance of art  
2 therapy by the licensed associate art therapist.

3 (j) Licenses for associate art therapists.--

4 (1) A license issued under this section is valid for a  
5 period of five years so long as the individual holding the  
6 license provides evidence annually, through a form prescribed  
7 by the board, that the individual is receiving not less than  
8 one hour of direct face-to-face contact with a qualified art  
9 therapy supervisor per 10 hours of face-to-face practice with  
10 clients, including no less than two hours of supervision per  
11 month, through group or individual supervision.

12 (2) At the end of the five-year period, a licensed  
13 associate art therapist who has not met the requirements for  
14 licensure as a professional art therapist may submit an  
15 application for extension of licensure as an associate art  
16 therapist to the board. The application must include:

17 (i) a plan for completing the requirements to obtain  
18 licensure as a licensed professional art therapist;

19 (ii) documentation of compliance with the continuing  
20 education requirements;

21 (iii) documentation of compliance with requirements  
22 related to supervision; and

23 (iv) letters of recommendation from at least one  
24 qualified art therapy supervisor providing supervision to  
25 the applicant.

26 (3) An extension of a license as an associate art  
27 therapist under this subsection is valid for a period of two  
28 years and is not renewable.

29 Section 5. Section 8(b) of the act, amended March 28, 2024  
30 (P.L.11, No.4), is amended to read:



1 Section 8. Procedures for licensing.

2 \* \* \*

3 (b) Issuance of license.--The board shall issue to each  
4 person who meets the licensure requirements of this act a  
5 certificate setting forth that such person is licensed to hold  
6 oneself out as a licensed bachelor social worker, a licensed  
7 social worker, a licensed clinical social worker, a licensed  
8 associate marriage and family therapist, a licensed marriage and  
9 family therapist, a licensed associate professional counselor  
10 [or], a licensed professional counselor or a licensed  
11 professional art therapist.

12 Section 6. Section 9 of the act is amended by adding a  
13 subsection to read:

14 Section 9. Exemption from licensure examination.

15 \* \* \*

16 (d) Professional art therapists.--The requirements of  
17 section 7(h)(5) shall not apply and a license shall be issued  
18 without examination to an applicant who meets all of the  
19 following requirements:

20 (1) Has submitted an application for a professional art  
21 therapist license, accompanied by the required fee, within  
22 two years after the effective date of this paragraph.

23 (2) Can demonstrate proof of practice of professional  
24 art therapy for at least five years prior to the date of  
25 application for license.

26 (3) Has successfully met one of the following  
27 educational requirements:

28 (i) Has a master's degree of at least 48 semester  
29 hours or 72 quarter hours from a program in art therapy  
30 approved by the American Art Therapy Association.

1           (ii) Has a master's degree from an accredited  
2           educational institution with a course of study that the  
3           Art Therapy Credentials Board has determined is  
4           equivalent to an approved program in art therapy for  
5           purposes of meeting the education requirements for  
6           registration as an art therapist.

7           (iii) Has a doctoral degree in art therapy or a  
8           field determined by the board by regulation to be closely  
9           related to the practice of professional art therapy from  
10           an accredited educational institution.

11           (4) Holds a current credential as a registered art  
12           therapist and has passed the national board certification  
13           examination of the Art Therapy Credentials Board.

14       Section 7. Section 10 of the act, amended March 28, 2024  
15       (P.L.11, No.4), is amended to read:

16       Section 10. Reciprocity.

17       (a) General rule.--The board shall have the power to grant a  
18       reciprocal license to an applicant who is licensed or certified  
19       as a bachelor social worker, social worker, clinical social  
20       worker, associate marriage and family therapist, marriage and  
21       family therapist, associate professional counselor [or],  
22       professional counselor or professional art therapist in another  
23       state and has demonstrated qualifications which equal or exceed  
24       those required pursuant to this act in the determination of the  
25       board, provided that no license shall be granted under this  
26       section to an applicant unless the state in which the applicant  
27       is licensed affords reciprocal treatment to persons who are  
28       residents of this Commonwealth and who are licensed pursuant to  
29       this act.

30       (b) Emergencies.--The board shall have the power to allow an

individual who is licensed or certified as a clinical social worker, a marriage and family therapist [or], a professional counselor or a professional art therapist in another state to practice in this Commonwealth without licensure for no more than 60 days as part of a relief effort related to a state of emergency as declared by the Federal Government or the Governor.

Section 8. Section 10.1 of the act is amended by adding a subsection to read:

Section 10.1. Endorsement of out-of-State licenses.

\* \* \*

(d) Professional art therapist license.--The board may issue a professional art therapist license without examination to an applicant holding a professional art therapist or equivalent mental health license in another state who submits proof satisfactory to the board of all of the following:

(1) The applicant is of good moral character.

(2) The applicant meets the educational requirements as specified in section 7(h)(3).

(3) The applicant has completed a minimum of 3,000 hours of supervised clinical experience acceptable to the board.

(4) The applicant holds a license that is in good standing from another state.

(5) The applicant has, at a minimum, been actively engaged in the practice of professional art therapy work for five of the last seven years immediately preceding the filing of the application for licensure by endorsement with the board.

(6) The applicant has submitted an application accompanied by the application fee.

(7) The applicant has not been convicted of a felony

1 under The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic  
2 Act, or of an offense under the laws of another jurisdiction  
3 which if committed in this Commonwealth would be a felony  
4 under The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic  
5 Act, unless the applicant otherwise satisfies the  
6 qualifications contained in or authorized by this act and:

7 (i) at least 10 years have elapsed from the date of  
8 conviction; or

9 (ii) the applicant satisfactorily demonstrates to  
10 the board that the applicant has made significant  
11 progress in personal rehabilitation since the conviction  
12 such that licensure of the applicant should not be  
13 expected to create a substantial risk of harm to the  
14 health and safety of clients or the public or a  
15 substantial risk of further criminal violation,  
16 in which case the board may issue a probationary license  
17 for the remainder of the 10 years required in  
18 subparagraph (i).

19 As used in this paragraph, the term "convicted" includes a  
20 judgment, an admission of guilt or a plea of nolo contendere.

21 Section 9. Section 12 of the act, amended March 28, 2024  
22 (P.L.11, No.4), is amended to read:

23 Section 12. Reinstatement of license.

24 Unless ordered to do so by Commonwealth Court or an appeal  
25 therefrom, the board shall not reinstate the license of a person  
26 to practice as a bachelor social worker, social worker, clinical  
27 social worker, associate marriage and family therapist, marriage  
28 and family therapist, associate professional counselor [or],  
29 professional counselor or professional art therapist pursuant to  
30 this act, which has been revoked. Any person whose license has

1 been revoked may apply for reinstatement, after a period of at  
2 least five years, but must meet all of the licensing  
3 qualifications of this act, including the examination  
4 requirement, if he or she desires to practice as a bachelor  
5 social worker, social worker, clinical social worker, marriage  
6 and family therapist [or], professional counselor or  
7 professional art therapist pursuant to this act at any time  
8 after such revocation.

9 Section 10. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

10 Section 16.7. Restriction on use of title "licensed  
11 professional art therapist," "licensed associate art  
12 therapist" and related titles.

13 (a) General rule.--Only individuals who have received  
14 licenses as licensed professional art therapists under this act  
15 may engage in the independent practice of professional art  
16 therapy, use the letters "L.P.A.T." in connection with their  
17 names or represent themselves to the public as licensed  
18 professional art therapists, professional art therapists or art  
19 therapists. It shall be unlawful for an individual to style  
20 oneself as a professional art therapist, advertise or engage in  
21 the independent practice of professional art therapy or use any  
22 words or symbols indicating or tending to indicate that the  
23 individual is a licensed professional art therapist,  
24 professional art therapist or otherwise qualified to practice  
25 professional art therapy without holding a license in good  
26 standing under this act.

27 (b) Nonapplicability.--Subsection (a) shall not apply to the  
28 following:

29 (1) A person employed by the Commonwealth in an art  
30 therapist position on the effective date of this subsection,

1 during the time of employment by the Commonwealth in that  
2 position who has completed or is in the process of completing  
3 the education requirements to become a licensed professional  
4 art therapist or licensed associate art therapist.

5 (2) A person who holds a valid license or is certified  
6 or regulated pursuant to another professional licensure law  
7 or State certification of the Commonwealth and who is  
8 credentialed by the Art Therapy Credentials Board as a  
9 certified art therapist.

10 (3) A person who is practicing professional art therapy  
11 under supervision to meet the supervised clinical experience  
12 requirement to become a licensed professional art therapist  
13 pursuant to this act, if the person does not represent  
14 himself or herself as a licensed professional art therapist  
15 or professional art therapist.

16 (4) A student enrolled in an art therapy academic  
17 program with an accredited educational institution while  
18 practicing art therapy under qualified supervision and as  
19 part of an approved course of study if the student does not  
20 represent himself or herself as a professional art therapist  
21 or art therapist. A student enrolled in an art therapy  
22 program may identify himself or herself only as an "art  
23 therapy student" or "art therapy intern."

24 Section 11. Section 17(b) of the act is amended to read:

25 Section 17. Penalties.

26 \* \* \*

27 (b) Civil penalty.--In addition to any other civil remedy or  
28 criminal penalty provided for in this act, the board, by a vote  
29 of the majority of the maximum number of the authorized  
30 membership of the board as provided by law, or by a vote of the

majority of the duly qualified and confirmed membership or a minimum of three members, whichever is greater, may levy a civil penalty of up to \$10,000 on any current licensee who violates any provision of this act, on any person who engages in the independent practice of clinical social work, the independent practice of marriage and family therapy [or], the independent practice of professional counseling or the independent practice of professional art therapy without being licensed pursuant to this act or on any person who holds himself or herself out as a licensed bachelor social worker, licensed social worker, licensed clinical social worker, licensed marriage and family therapist, licensed professional counselor or marriage and family therapist or licensed professional art therapist or professional art therapist without being so licensed pursuant to this act. The board shall levy this penalty only after affording the accused party the opportunity for a hearing, as provided in Title 2 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes (relating to administrative law and procedure).

\* \* \*

Section 12. Section 18 heading, (a) and (b) of the act, amended March 28, 2024 (P.L.11, No.4), are amended and the section is amended by adding a subsection to read:

Section 18. License renewal; records and fees; reinstatement.

[(a) Renewal term.--Renewal of license shall be on a biennial basis. The board may by regulation require evidence of professional activity or continuing education as a condition of license renewal. No credit shall be given for any course in office management or practice building.]

\* \* \*

(b) Records.--A record of all persons licensed to practice

1 as bachelor social workers, social workers, clinical social  
2 workers, associate marriage and family therapists, marriage and  
3 family therapists, associate professional counselors [and],  
4 professional counselors and professional art therapists in  
5 Pennsylvania shall be kept in the office of the board and shall  
6 be open to public inspection and copying upon payment of a  
7 nominal fee for copying the record.

8 \* \* \*

9 (d) Reinstatement.--

10 (1) An individual whose license has been suspended or  
11 revoked may make written application to the board requesting  
12 reinstatement of the license upon termination of the period  
13 of suspension or revocation in a manner prescribed by the  
14 board and such application shall be accompanied by the fee  
15 provided.

16 (2) An individual whose license has expired may make  
17 written application to the board requesting reinstatement of  
18 the license in a manner prescribed by the board and such  
19 application shall be accompanied by:

20 (i) A renewal fee established under by the board  
21 and, for an individual whose license has been expired for  
22 one year or less, an additional fee equal to the renewal  
23 fee.

24 (ii) Evidence satisfactory to the board that the  
25 individual has completed during the previous 24 months  
26 the continuing education requirements for one license  
27 period.

28 (3) An individual who requests to reinstate a license  
29 that has been expired for longer than one year and who has  
30 not completed the necessary continuing education hours for



1 reinstatement may submit an application for a six-month  
2 reinstatement temporary license in a manner prescribed by the  
3 board. The application must be accompanied by a fee  
4 established by the board.

5 (4) A licensee practicing under a six-month  
6 reinstatement temporary license must complete the continuing  
7 education requirements required for a permanent license prior  
8 to the expiration of the temporary license and notify the  
9 board upon completion. A six-month reinstatement temporary  
10 license may not be extended or renewed.

11 Section 13. Section 20(a) of the act, amended March 28, 2024  
12 (P.L.11, No.4), is amended to read:

13 Section 20. Unlawful practice.

14 (a) Unlawful practice prohibited.--It shall be unlawful for  
15 any person to engage in the independent practice of clinical  
16 social work, the independent practice of marriage and family  
17 therapy [or], the independent practice of professional  
18 counseling or the independent practice of professional art  
19 therapy or hold oneself out as a licensed bachelor social  
20 worker, licensed social worker, licensed clinical social worker,  
21 licensed associate marriage and family therapist, marriage and  
22 family therapist, licensed associate professional counselor  
23 [and], professional counselor and licensed professional art  
24 therapist without possessing a valid, unexpired, unrevoked and  
25 unsuspended license issued under this act.

26 \* \* \*

27 Section 14. Within 60 days of the effective date of this  
28 section, the Governor shall nominate two professional members to  
29 serve as the licensed professional art therapist members of the  
30 State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists,

1 Professional Counselors and Professional Art Therapists. The  
2 professional members initially appointed pursuant to this  
3 section need not be licensed by the licensure examination  
4 adopted by the State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and  
5 Family Therapists, Professional Counselors and Professional Art  
6 Therapists but, at the time of appointment, must satisfy all  
7 other requirements of this act for licensure as a professional  
8 art therapist.

9 Section 15. The State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and  
10 Family Therapists, Professional Counselors and Professional Art  
11 Therapists shall promulgate final regulations to carry out the  
12 provisions of this act within 18 months of the effective date of  
13 this section.

14 Section 16. This act shall take effect as follows:

15 (1) The amendment or addition of sections 4, 16.5, 17(b)  
16 and 20(a) of the act shall take effect in 24 months.

17 (2) The remainder of this act shall take effect in 60  
18 days.