

HB 189 -- LICENSURE OF MUSIC THERAPISTS

SPONSOR: Swan

This bill prohibits, after January 1, 2017, any person from using the title "music therapist" or similar title or practicing music therapy without a license issued by the Director of the Division of Professional Registration within the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration. An applicant must complete a division director prescribed application accompanied by applicable fees and satisfactory evidence that the applicant is 18 years of age or older, holds a bachelor's degree or higher in music therapy from a program approved by the American Music Therapy Association, has successfully completed specified clinical training, is in good standing based on a review of the applicant's music therapy licensure history in other jurisdictions, and has passed the examination for board certification offered by the Certification Board for Music Therapists or provides proof that he or she is currently a board certified music therapist. A license must be renewed biennially upon the payment of a renewal fee, proof of maintenance of the applicant's status as a board certified music therapist, and proof of the completion of at least 40 hours of continuing education in an approved program.

Until January 1, 2020, the division director must waive the examination requirement for an applicant who is a board certified music therapist or designated as a registered music therapist, certified music therapist, or advanced certified music therapist and in good standing with the National Music Therapy Registry.

The division director may issue a sanction for specified acts and conduct investigations into allegations of the misconduct. The division director may impose one or more of the following sanctions: suspension, revocation, denial, refusal to renew a license, probation, reprimand, or a fine not less than \$100 and not more than \$1,000 for each violation.

The bill establishes the Music Therapy Advisory Group within the division consisting of five members as specified in the bill to be appointed by the division director to serve without compensation. The advisory group may facilitate the development of materials that the division director may use to educate the public concerning music therapist licensure, the benefits of music therapy, and the utilization of music therapy by individuals and in facilities.