

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date:

Action:

Meeting Dates:

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes the Health Licensing Office (HLO) to issue licenses to practice music therapy. Specifies licensing criteria for applicants. Authorizes HLO to adopt rules for licensing, qualifications and to establish standards. Prohibits persons from practicing music therapy or using the title of music therapist without a license. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Fiscal impact
- Adequacy of fees

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The American Music Therapy Association defines “music therapy” as the clinical and evidence-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program.

Music Therapy is an established health profession in which music is used within a therapeutic relationship to address physical, emotional, cognitive and social needs of individuals. After assessing the strengths and needs of each client, the qualified music therapist provides the indicated treatment, including creating, singing, moving to, and/or listening to music. Through musical involvement in the therapeutic context, clients' abilities are strengthened and transferred to other areas of their lives. Music therapy also provides avenues for communication that can be helpful to those who find it difficult to express themselves in words. Research in the field of music therapy supports its effectiveness in many areas, including: overall physical rehabilitation and facilitating movement; increasing people's motivation to become engaged in their treatment; providing emotional support for clients and their families; and providing an outlet for expression of feelings.