
HOUSE BILL 2363

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

By Representatives Reed, Berry, Goodman, and Fosse

Prefiled 01/09/26. Read first time 01/12/26. Referred to Committee on Postsecondary Education & Workforce.

1 AN ACT Relating to temporary exemptions from licensure for
2 certain applicants for a license to practice music therapy; amending
3 RCW 18.233.050; and providing an effective date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.233.050 and 2023 c 175 s 6 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) Beginning January 1, 2025, a person may not practice music
8 therapy or use any title or designation of "music therapist" that
9 indicates that the person is authorized to practice music therapy
10 unless the person is licensed under this chapter (~~(175, Laws of~~
11 ~~2023)~~).

12 (2) Nothing in this chapter may be construed to prohibit or
13 restrict the practices, services, or activities of the following:

14 (a) Any person licensed, certified, or regulated under the laws
15 of Washington state in another profession or occupation or personnel
16 supervised by a licensed professional in this state performing work,
17 including the use of music, incidental to the practice of the
18 licensed, certified, or regulated profession or occupation, if the
19 person does not represent that the person is a music therapist;

20 (b) Any person whose training and national certification attests
21 to the individual's preparation and ability to practice the certified

1 profession or occupation, if the person does not represent that the
2 person is a music therapist; ((and))

3 (c) Any use and practice of music therapy as an integral part of
4 a program of study for students enrolled in a music therapy education
5 program; and

6 (d) Any applicant for a license to practice music therapy
7 providing music therapy under the supervision of a licensed music
8 therapist for a period not to exceed six months from the start of
9 practice if the applicant's application meets all of the requirements
10 for licensure established in RCW 18.233.030, except the results of
11 the examination required by RCW 18.233.030 have not been verified by
12 the department.

13 (3) Unless authorized to practice speech-language pathology,
14 music therapists may not evaluate, examine, instruct, or counsel on
15 speech, language, communication, or swallowing disorders or
16 conditions. An individual licensed as a professional music therapist
17 may not represent to the public that the individual is authorized to
18 treat a communication disorder. This does not prohibit an individual
19 licensed as a professional music therapist from representing to the
20 public that the individual may work with clients who have a
21 communication disorder and address communication skills.

22 (4) Before providing music therapy services to a client for an
23 identified clinical or developmental need, it is recommended that the
24 licensee review the client's diagnosis, treatment needs, and
25 treatment.

26 (5) Before providing music therapy services to a student for an
27 identified educational need, the licensee shall review the student's
28 diagnosis, treatment needs, and treatment plan with the
29 individualized family service plan's team or the individualized
30 education program's team.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act takes effect January 1, 2027.

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