

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2023-148

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3 REQUESTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND  
4 LABOR STUDY THE LICENSURE OF RECREATIONAL THERAPISTS IN THIS  
5 STATE.

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7 WHEREAS, more than seventy six (76) certified recreational therapist  
8 practice in this state and are eligible for licensure; and

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10 WHEREAS, five (5) states and the District of Columbia have laws to  
11 license and regulate the profession of recreational therapy; and

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13 WHEREAS, in 2009, Oklahoma enacted laws to license and regulate  
14 recreational therapy which define "therapeutic recreation" or "recreation  
15 therapy" as the "specialized application of recreation to assist with the  
16 treatment and/or maintenance of the health status, functional abilities,  
17 recreational and leisure activities and ultimately quality of life for  
18 individuals hospitalized and/or receiving treatment for various diagnoses and  
19 individuals with disabilities"; and

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21 WHEREAS, goals for recreational therapy may include:

22 (1) Remediating or restoring an individual's participation  
23 levels in recreation and leisure activities which are limited due to  
24 physical, cognitive, social or emotional limitations;

25 (2) Analyzing and evaluating recreational activities to promote  
26 full participation and maximization of functional independence in  
27 recreational and leisure activities;

28 (3) Using recreational modalities in designed intervention  
29 strategies to maximize physical, cognitive, social, or emotional abilities to  
30 promote participation in recreational and leisure activities;

31 (4) Implementing a recreational therapeutic treatment plan  
32 consistent with the overall treatment plan;

33 (5) Identifying and training in the use of adaptive recreational  
34 equipment;

35 (6) Identifying and educating individuals to use recreational  
36 and leisure resources that support a healthy, active, and engaged life; and

1           (7) Consulting with groups, programs, organizations, or  
2 communities to improve physical, social, and programmatic accessibility in  
3 recreational and leisure activities; and  
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5           WHEREAS, recreational therapists help patients reduce stress, anxiety,  
6 and depression as well as increasing a patient's self-confidence; and  
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8           WHEREAS, the regulation and licensure of recreational therapists in  
9 this state would:

10           (1) Protect the health and safety of the public; and

11           (2) Require that licensees demonstrate that they have the  
12 requisite training and competence to provide recreational therapy; and  
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14           WHEREAS, the General Assembly should pursue efforts to establish  
15 criteria for fairness, quality, competence, and safety related to  
16 professional practice of recreational therapy with registration,  
17 certification, and licensure,  
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19 NOW THEREFORE,

20 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR  
21 OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY:  
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23           THAT the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor study the  
24 licensure of recreational therapists in this state.  
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27 Respectfully submitted,  
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31 Representative Aaron Pilkington  
32 District 45  
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36 Representative Julie Mayberry

1 District 92

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5 Prepared by: JMB/JMB

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