

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2023-148

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, goals for recreational therapy may include:

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

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

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

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

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

(6) Identifying and educating individuals to use recreational 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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