

5303--A

2013-2014 Regular Sessions

I N   A S S E M B L Y

February 22, 2013

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Introduced by M. of A. ZEBROWSKI, TITONE, GUNTHER, BRINDISI, LAVINE --  
Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. GALEF, LIFTON, LUPARDO -- read once and  
referred to the Committee on Higher Education -- recommitted to the  
Committee on Higher Education in accordance with Assembly Rule 3, sec.  
2 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended  
and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to the licensure of ther-  
apeutic recreation specialists; and to amend chapter 676 of the laws  
of 2002, amending the education law and the social services law relat-  
ing to licensing mental health practitioners, in relation to prevent-  
ing prohibitions or limitations on the activities or services of  
certain persons

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEM-  
BLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1     Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new article   156-A  
2     to read as follows:

3                                 ARTICLE 156-A

4                                 THERAPEUTIC RECREATION SPECIALISTS

5     SECTION 7950. DEFINITIONS.

6                 7951. EVALUATION AND TREATMENT AUTHORIZATION.

7                 7952. PROHIBITION ON UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE; PROFESSIONAL IDEN-  
8                         TIFICATION.

9                 7953. COERCION PROHIBITED.

10                7954. ELIGIBILITY FOR LICENSURE.

11                7955. RENEWAL OF LICENSE.

12                7956. REVOCATION, SUSPENSION OR DENIAL OF LICENSURE.

13                7957. RECIPROCITY.

14     S 7950. DEFINITIONS. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE, THE FOLLOWING  
15     TERMS SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING MEANINGS:

16         1. "BOARD" MEANS STATE THERAPEUTIC RECREATION LICENSURE BOARD.

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[ ] is old law to be omitted.

LBD05473-06-4

1 2. "THERAPEUTIC RECREATION SPECIALIST" MEANS A PERSON LICENSED TO  
2 PRACTICE RECREATIONAL THERAPY IN THE STATE.

3 3. "RECREATIONAL THERAPY" OR "THERAPEUTIC RECREATION" MEANS A TREAT-  
4 MENT SERVICE DESIGNED TO RESTORE, REMEDIATE AND REHABILITATE A PERSON'S  
5 LEVEL OF FUNCTIONING AND INDEPENDENCE IN LIFE ACTIVITIES, TO PROMOTE  
6 HEALTH AND WELLNESS AS WELL AS REDUCE OR ELIMINATE THE ACTIVITY LIMITA-  
7 TIONS AND RESTRICTIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN LIFE SITUATIONS CAUSED BY AN  
8 ILLNESS OR DISABLING CONDITION.

9 (A) FOR PURPOSES OF ACCOMPLISHING THERAPEUTIC RECREATION GOALS, RECRE-  
10 ATIONAL THERAPY MAY INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO:

11 (I) REMEDIATION OR RESTORATION OF AN INDIVIDUAL'S PARTICIPATION LEVELS  
12 THAT ARE LIMITED DUE TO IMPAIRMENT IN PHYSICAL, COGNITIVE, SOCIAL OR  
13 EMOTIONAL ABILITIES;

14 (II) ANALYZING AND EVALUATING RECREATIONAL AND PSYCHOSOCIAL ACTIVITIES  
15 TO DETERMINE THE PHYSICAL, SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND COGNITIVE AND PROGRAM-  
16 MATIC ELEMENTS NECESSARY FOR INVOLVEMENT AND MODIFYING THOSE ELEMENTS TO  
17 PROMOTE FULL PARTICIPATION AND MAXIMIZATION OF FUNCTIONAL INDEPENDENCE;

18 (III) USING RECREATIONAL MODALITIES IN DESIGNED INTERVENTION STRATE-  
19 GIES TO MAXIMIZE PHYSICAL, COGNITIVE, SOCIAL OR EMOTIONAL ABILITIES;

20 (IV) INCORPORATING THE INDIVIDUAL'S INTERESTS AND THE INDIVIDUAL'S  
21 FAMILY AND COMMUNITY TO MAXIMIZE RELEVANCE TO THE INDIVIDUAL'S GOALS;

22 (V) PROMOTING THE CONCEPT OF HEALTHY LIVING INTO TREATMENT STRATEGIES  
23 TO DECREASE THE POTENTIAL FOR SECONDARY CONDITIONS;

24 (VI) DEVELOPING COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGING ATTITUDINAL CHANGES  
25 TO REFLECT DIGNITY, SELF RESPECT, AND INVOLVEMENT WITHIN ONE'S COMMUNI-  
26 TY; AND

27 (VII) FOSTERING PEER AND INTERGENERATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS.

28 (B) THERAPEUTIC RECREATION SERVICES INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

29 (I) CONDUCTING AN INDIVIDUALIZED ASSESSMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
30 COLLECTING SYSTEMATIC, COMPREHENSIVE AND ACCURATE DATA NECESSARY TO  
31 DETERMINE THE COURSE OF ACTION AND SUBSEQUENT INDIVIDUALIZED TREATMENT  
32 PLAN;

33 (II) PLANNING AND DEVELOPING THE INDIVIDUALIZED PLAN THAT IDENTIFIES  
34 AN INDIVIDUAL'S GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND TREATMENT INTERVENTION STRATEGIES;

35 (III) IMPLEMENTING THE INDIVIDUALIZED PLAN THAT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE  
36 OVERALL TREATMENT PROGRAM;

37 (IV) SYSTEMATICALLY EVALUATING AND COMPARING THE INDIVIDUAL'S RESPONSE  
38 TO THE INDIVIDUALIZED PLAN AND SUGGESTING MODIFICATIONS AS APPROPRIATE;

39 (V) DEVELOPING A DISCHARGE PLAN IN COLLABORATION WITH THE INDIVIDUAL,  
40 THE INDIVIDUAL'S FAMILY AND OTHER TREATMENT TEAM MEMBERS;

41 (VI) IDENTIFYING, DESIGNING, FABRICATING, APPLYING OR TRAINING IN THE  
42 USE OF ADAPTIVE RECREATIONAL EQUIPMENT;

43 (VII) IDENTIFYING, APPLYING, AND EVALUATING THE USE OF NON-INVASIVE  
44 AND NON-PHARMACOLOGICAL APPROACHES TO REDUCE OR ALLEVIATE PAIN OR MANAGE  
45 PAIN TO MINIMIZE ITS IMPACT UPON PARTICIPATION;

46 (VIII) IDENTIFYING, PROVIDING, AND EDUCATING INDIVIDUALS TO USE  
47 RESOURCES THAT SUPPORT A HEALTHY, ACTIVE AND ENGAGED LIFE;

48 (IX) MINIMIZE THE IMPACT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRAINTS AS A BARRIER TO  
49 PARTICIPATION;

50 (X) COLLABORATING WITH AND EDUCATING THE INDIVIDUAL, FAMILY, CAREGIV-  
51 ER, AND OTHERS TO FOSTER AN ENVIRONMENT THAT IS RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS  
52 OF THE INDIVIDUAL; AND

53 (XI) CONSULTING WITH GROUPS, PROGRAMS, ORGANIZATIONS, OR COMMUNITIES  
54 TO IMPROVE PHYSICAL, SOCIAL, AND PROGRAMMATIC ACCESSIBILITY.

55 S 7951. EVALUATION AND TREATMENT AUTHORIZATION. 1. CONSULTATION AND  
56 EVALUATION BY A THERAPEUTIC RECREATION SPECIALIST MAY BE PERFORMED WITH-

OUT REFERRAL. INITIATION OF THERAPEUTIC RECREATION SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS WITH MEDICALLY-RELATED CONDITIONS SHALL BE BASED ON A REFERRAL FROM ANY QUALIFIED HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL THAT, WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE PROFESSIONAL'S LICENSURE, IS AUTHORIZED TO REFER FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES.

2. PREVENTION, WELLNESS, EDUCATION, ADAPTIVE SPORTS AND RECREATION, AND RELATED SERVICES SHALL NOT REQUIRE A REFERRAL.

S 7952. PROHIBITION ON UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE; PROFESSIONAL IDENTIFICATION. 1. NO PERSON SHALL PRACTICE OR HOLD ONESELF OUT AS BEING ABLE TO PRACTICE THERAPEUTIC RECREATION OR PROVIDE RECREATIONAL THERAPY SERVICES IN THIS STATE UNLESS THE PERSON IS LICENSED UNDER THIS ARTICLE. NOTHING IN THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO PROHIBIT STUDENTS ENROLLED IN BOARD-APPROVED SCHOOLS OR COURSES IN THERAPEUTIC RECREATION FROM PERFORMING THERAPEUTIC RECREATION THAT IS INCIDENTAL TO THEIR RESPECTIVE COURSES OF STUDY OR SUPERVISED WORK. THE BOARD SHALL ADOPT RULES RELATIVE TO SCHOOLS OR COURSES ALLOWING STUDENTS TO PRACTICE UNDER THIS SUBDIVISION.

2. LICENSED THERAPEUTIC RECREATION SPECIALISTS MAY USE THE LETTERS "TRS/L" AND "CTRS/L" IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR NAME OR PLACE OF BUSINESS.

3. A PERSON OR BUSINESS ENTITY, ITS EMPLOYEES, AGENTS, OR REPRESENTATIVES SHALL NOT USE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THAT PERSON'S NAME OR THE ACTIVITY OF THE BUSINESS THE WORDS THERAPEUTIC RECREATION SPECIALIST, THERAPEUTIC RECREATION, RECREATIONAL THERAPY, RECREATIONAL THERAPIST, RECREATION THERAPY, RECREATION THERAPIST, CERTIFIED THERAPEUTIC RECREATION SPECIALIST, THE LETTERS "TR", "RT", "TRS", "CTRS", "CTRS/L", OR ANY OTHER WORDS, ABBREVIATIONS OR INSIGNIA INDICATING OR IMPLYING DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY THAT THERAPEUTIC RECREATION IS PROVIDED OR SUPPLIED, INCLUDING THE BILLING OF SERVICES LABELED AS THERAPEUTIC RECREATION OR RECREATIONAL THERAPY, UNLESS SUCH SERVICES ARE PROVIDED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF A THERAPEUTIC RECREATION SPECIALIST/RECREATIONAL THERAPIST LICENSED PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE. A PERSON OR ENTITY THAT VIOLATES THIS SUBDIVISION IS GUILTY OF A VIOLATION FOR THE FIRST OFFENSE AND GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR FOR ANY SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE.

S 7953. COERCION PROHIBITED. NO PERSON SHALL COERCE A LICENSED THERAPEUTIC RECREATION SPECIALIST INTO COMPROMISING CLIENT SAFETY BY REQUIRING THE LICENSED THERAPEUTIC RECREATION SPECIALIST TO DELEGATE ACTIVITIES OR TASKS IF THE LICENSED THERAPEUTIC RECREATION SPECIALIST DETERMINES THAT IT IS INAPPROPRIATE TO DO SO. LICENSED THERAPEUTIC RECREATION SPECIALISTS SHALL NOT BE SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION BY THE BOARD FOR REFUSING TO DELEGATE ACTIVITIES OR TASKS OR REFUSING TO PROVIDE THE REQUIRED TRAINING FOR DELEGATION IF THE LICENSED THERAPEUTIC RECREATION SPECIALIST DETERMINES THAT THE DELEGATION MAY COMPROMISE CLIENT SAFETY.

S 7954. ELIGIBILITY FOR LICENSURE. 1. AN APPLICANT SHALL POSSESS THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS TO BE LICENSED:

(A) BE AT LEAST EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE;

(B) BE OF GOOD MORAL CHARACTER;

(C) SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE A DEGREE FROM AN ACCREDITED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF A NATIONAL CERTIFYING BODY SUCH AS THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THERAPEUTIC RECREATION CERTIFICATION (NCTRC) AS DETERMINED BY THE BOARD.

(D) HOLD A CURRENT CERTIFICATION BY A NATIONAL CERTIFYING BODY SUCH AS THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THERAPEUTIC RECREATION CERTIFICATION (NCTRC) AS DETERMINED BY THE BOARD.

2. THE BOARD MAY, UPON NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY FOR A HEARING, DENY AN APPLICATION FOR REINSTATEMENT OF A LICENSE OR REINSTATE THE LICENSE WITH

1 CONDITIONS. CONDITIONS IMPOSED MAY INCLUDE A REQUIREMENT FOR CONTINUING  
2 EDUCATION, PRACTICE UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A LICENSED THERAPEUTIC  
3 RECREATION SPECIALIST OR ANY OTHER CONDITIONS SET FORTH IN THIS ARTICLE.

4 3. NOTWITHSTANDING SUBDIVISION ONE OF THIS SECTION, THE BOARD MAY  
5 GRANT LICENSES TO APPLICANTS WHO WERE CERTIFIED BY NCTRC PRIOR TO THE  
6 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ARTICLE AND WHO HOLD AN ACTIVE CTRS CREDENTIAL.

7 S 7955. RENEWAL OF LICENSE. 1. PERSONS LICENSED AS THERAPEUTIC RECRE-  
8 ATION SPECIALISTS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR RENEWAL OF THEIR LICENSES IF SUCH  
9 PERSONS:

10 (A) HAVE NOT VIOLATED THIS ARTICLE OR DEMONSTRATED POOR MORAL CHARAC-  
11 TER;

12 (B) MEET CONTINUING COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS APPROVED BY THE BOARD AND  
13 OTHER REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE BOARD RULES ADOPTED PURSUANT TO  
14 THIS ARTICLE; AND

15 (C) HOLD A CURRENT CERTIFICATION BY A NATIONAL CERTIFYING BODY SUCH AS  
16 THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THERAPEUTIC RECREATION CERTIFICATION AS DETER-  
17 MINED BY THE BOARD.

18 2. THE BOARD SHALL ACCEPT CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS THAT MEET THE  
19 RECERTIFICATION STANDARDS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THERAPEUTIC RECRE-  
20 ATION CERTIFICATION.

21 S 7956. REVOCATION, SUSPENSION OR DENIAL OF LICENSURE. 1. THE BOARD  
22 MAY REQUIRE REMEDIAL EDUCATION, ISSUE A LETTER OF REPRIMAND, RESTRICT,  
23 REVOKE OR SUSPEND ANY LICENSE ISSUED PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE OR DENY  
24 ANY APPLICATION FOR LICENSURE IF THE BOARD DETERMINES THAT THE LICENSEE  
25 OR APPLICANT HAS DONE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

26 (A) ALLOWED NATIONAL CERTIFICATION TO EXPIRE;

27 (B) GIVEN FALSE INFORMATION OR WITHHELD MATERIAL INFORMATION FROM THE  
28 BOARD IN PROCURING OR ATTEMPTING TO PROCURE A LICENSE PURSUANT TO THIS  
29 ARTICLE;

30 (C) BEEN CONVICTED OF, OR PLEADED GUILTY OR NOLO CONTENDERE TO, ANY  
31 CRIME THAT INDICATES THAT THE PERSON IS UNFIT OR INCOMPETENT TO BE  
32 LICENSED PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE;

33 (D) IS UNABLE TO PERFORM THE FUNCTIONS FOR WHICH A LICENSE HAS BEEN  
34 ISSUED DUE TO IMPAIRMENT OF MENTAL OR PHYSICAL FACULTIES;

35 (E) ENGAGED IN CONDUCT THAT ENDANGERS THE PUBLIC HEALTH;

36 (F) IS UNFIT OR INCOMPETENT TO BE LICENSED PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE BY  
37 REASON OF DELIBERATE OR NEGLIGENT ACTS OR OMISSIONS REGARDLESS OF WHETH-  
38 ER ACTIVE INJURY TO THE PATIENT OR CLIENT IS ESTABLISHED;

39 (G) ENGAGES IN CONDUCT THAT DECEIVES, DEFRAUDS OR HARMS THE PUBLIC IN  
40 THE COURSE OF CLAIMING LICENSED STATUS OR PRACTICING THERAPEUTIC  
41 RECREATION/RECREATIONAL THERAPY;

42 (H) WILLFULLY VIOLATED ANY PROVISION OF THIS ARTICLE, RULES, OR CODE  
43 OF ETHICS ENACTED BY THE BOARD; OR

44 (I) AIDED, ABETTED OR ASSISTED ANY PERSON IN VIOLATING THE PROVISIONS  
45 OF THIS ARTICLE.

46 2. THE BOARD MAY REINSTATE A REVOKED LICENSE OR REMOVE LICENSURE  
47 RESTRICTIONS WHEN IT FINDS THAT THE REASONS FOR REVOCATION OR  
48 RESTRICTION NO LONGER EXIST AND THAT THE PERSON CAN REASONABLY BE  
49 EXPECTED TO SAFELY AND PROPERLY PRACTICE RECREATIONAL THERAPY.

50 S 7957. RECIPROCITY. THE BOARD MAY GRANT A LICENSE TO ANY PERSON WHO,  
51 AT THE TIME OF APPLICATION, IS LICENSED AS A RECREATIONAL THERAPIST OR  
52 THERAPEUTIC RECREATION SPECIALIST BY A SIMILAR BOARD OF ANOTHER COUNTRY,  
53 STATE OR TERRITORY WHOSE LICENSING STANDARDS ARE SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIV-  
54 ALENT TO OR HIGHER THAN THOSE REQUIRED BY THIS ARTICLE. THE BOARD SHALL  
55 DETERMINE THE SUBSTANTIAL EQUIVALENCE UPON WHICH RECIPROCITY IS BASED.

1 S 2. Subdivision a of section 17-a of chapter 676 of the laws of 2002,  
2 amending the education law and the social services law relating to  
3 licensing mental health practitioners, as amended by section 2 of part  
4 AA of chapter 57 of the laws of 2013, is amended to read as follows:

5 a. In relation to activities and services provided under article 153  
6 of the education law, nothing in this act shall prohibit or limit such  
7 activities or services on the part of any person in the employ of a  
8 program or service operated, regulated, funded, or approved by the  
9 department of mental hygiene or the office of children and family  
10 services, or a local governmental unit as that term is defined in arti-  
11 cle 41 of the mental hygiene law or a social services district as  
12 defined in section 61 of the social services law OR A THERAPEUTIC  
13 RECREATION SPECIALIST AS DEFINED IN ARTICLE 156-A OF THE EDUCATION LAW.  
14 In relation to activities and services provided under article 163 of the  
15 education law, nothing in this act shall prohibit or limit such activ-  
16 ities or services on the part of any person in the employ of a program  
17 or service operated, regulated, funded, or approved by the department of  
18 mental hygiene, the office of children and family services, the depart-  
19 ment of corrections and community supervision, the office of temporary  
20 and disability assistance, the state office for the aging and the  
21 department of health or a local governmental unit as that term is  
22 defined in article 41 of the mental hygiene law or a social services  
23 district as defined in section 61 of the social services law, pursuant  
24 to authority granted by law. This section shall not authorize the use of  
25 any title authorized pursuant to article 153, 156-A or 163 of the educa-  
26 tion law by any such employed person, except as otherwise provided by  
27 such articles respectively. This section shall be deemed repealed July  
28 1, 2016.

29 S 3. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeed-  
30 ing the date on which it shall have become a law; provided, however,  
31 that the amendments to subdivision a of section 17-a of chapter 676 of  
32 the laws of 2002 made by section two of this act shall not affect the  
33 repeal of such section and shall be deemed repealed therewith; provided  
34 further that the education department is authorized to promulgate any  
35 and all rules and regulations and take any other measures necessary to  
36 implement the provisions of this act on or before the effective date.