AATA Chapter Art Therapy Licensure Bills
Summary of licensure approach, license level(s) and key provisions**

**New Jersey – (2013) [Enacted, 2016]**
- The bill provides for a separate licensing statute to create a Licensed Professional Art Therapist (LPAT) license and a Licensed Associate Art Therapist (LAAT) license to be administered by a 5-member Art therapist Advisory Committee within the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Safety. The Advisory Committee is under the State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy, but authorized by statute to promulgate rules, review license applications, issue and renew licenses and establishes standards for continuing education.
- Defines “art therapy.”
- Licensure requirements for the LPAT include: (1) a master’s degree including a minimum of 60 graduate credit hours in art therapy or a “clearly related field with specialization in art therapy, or a master’s or doctoral degree in a related field without specialization with coursework and training “substantially equivalent” to a degree in art therapy; (2) 4,500 hours of supervised experience, with a least 3,500 hours after completion of the master’s degree; and (3) passing of the ATCB examination.
- Describes criteria for determining acceptable coursework in a related field without specialization in art therapy, including an additional 30 graduate credit hours in art therapy after receipt of the master’s degree.
- Qualification for an Associate (LAAT) requires meeting the master’s or doctoral degree requirements for licensure as a LPAT. Licensed associate art therapists must practice under the supervision of an Art Therapy Certified Supervisor, a LPAT or other supervisor approved by the Committee.
- Provides for a one-year “grandfather” waiver of the above licensing requirements for art therapists with master’s degrees with at least 45 graduate semester hours and either ATR-BC certification or at least 5 years prior experience in the practice of art therapy.
- Prohibits practice of art therapy without a license or use of any title or initials as a licensed professional art therapist or licensed association art therapist unless holding a license.
- Licenses must be renewed every two years with completion of approved continuing education.

**Connecticut – (2014)**
- The bill amends existing statute sections to authorize a Licensed Clinical Art Therapist (LCAT) license to be administered by the Connecticut Department of Public Health.
- Defines “art therapy,” “clinical process of art therapy” and “practice of clinical art therapy.”
- Licensure requirements include: (1) a master’s or doctoral degree in art therapy or a “clearly related field with specialization in art therapy” with a minimum of 60 graduate semester credit hours; (2) not less than 2,000 hours of post-graduate supervised experience, with a minimum of 1,500 hours of direct client contact; and (3) passing of the ATCB examination.
- Describes criteria for determining acceptable graduate degree programs “with a specialization in art therapy.”

**This summary of state licensure bills highlights the differences in approaches for licensure, authorized licenses, and licensure requirements proposed by each AATA chapter in response to different licensing structures, legal codes, and preferred licensing options in their state. Additional bill sections or requirements that are generally consistent in all the draft bills are described in the Notes section at the end of the document.**
- Describes criteria for determining acceptable graduate degree programs “with a specialization in art therapy.”
- Provides for a one-year “grandfather” waiver of the above licensing requirements for art therapists with master’s degrees with a minimum 45 graduate semester hours and ATR-BC certification in good standing.
- Prohibits practice of clinical art therapy without a license issued by the Department or use of any title or initials that may denote licensure as a clinical art therapist.
- Requires annual license renewal with completion of continuing education as required for maintenance of the ATR-BC credential (20 hours of continuing education).

**Vermont – (2014)**
- The bill provides for a separate licensing statute authorizing a Licensed Art Therapist (LAT) license administered by the Office of Professional Regulation of the Vermont Office of Secretary of State. Two art therapy advisors are appointed by the Secretary of State to advise the Office in developing rules and procedures and reviewing LAT license applications.
- Defines “art therapy” and “practice of art therapy.”
- Licensure requirements include (1) a master’s degree with a minimum of 60 graduate semester credits from an accredited art therapy program or a substantially equivalent program; (2) not less than two-years, with a minimum of 2,000 hours of supervised experience, including a minimum of 1,000 hours of post-graduate client contact experience; and (3) passing of the ATCB examination.
- Describes criteria for determining a “substantially equivalent” program to an accredited art therapy program.
- Waives the above requirements of the bill for art therapists who, prior to the effective date of the bill, hold master’s degrees with a minimum of 45 semester credit hours and either 5 years of prior professional experience, or hold ATR-BC certification.
- Prohibits practice of art therapy without a license; provides an “associate” designation (not a license) for art therapists engaged in post-graduate supervised experience.
- License must be renewed every two years with completion of 40 hours of approved continuing education.

**Louisiana – (2014)**
- The bill amends existing statute sections to authorize a Licensed Art Therapist license and a Licensed Clinical Art Therapist license administered by the Licensed Professional Counselors Board of Examiners. It expands the Board’s membership to include an art therapist and creates a 5-member Art Therapy Advisory Committee to administer the licenses, with the Committee’s chair holding the art therapy member position on the Board.
- Includes a legislative finding that practice of art therapy affects public health and safety and requires appropriate regulation.
- Defines “art therapy” and “practice of clinical art therapy.”
- Defines the responsibilities of the Advisory Committee to include developing rules and procedures for licensure and examining and qualifying applicants for licensure and license renewal. It adds a safeguard that rules adopted by the Board to define or limit the functions of the Advisory Committee must also be approved by the House and Senate Health and Welfare Committees.
- Requirements for licensure as a Licensed Art Therapist include: (1) a master’s or doctoral degree from a art therapy program approved by AATA or a substantially equivalent degree
program with a minimum 60 semester credit hour degree requirement; (2) completion of two years, with a minimum of 3,000 hours, of supervised experience in art therapy; and (3) passing of the ATCB examination.

- Describes criteria for determining a “substantially equivalent” program to an approved art therapy program.
- Waives the requirement for licensure as a licensed art therapist for “art therapy interns” who hold qualifying master’s degrees and are practicing under supervision to meet the supervised experience requirements for licensure.
- Requirements for licensure as a Licensed Clinical Art Therapist include: (1) meeting all requirements for licensure as a licensed art therapist; (2) completing a minimum of 9 graduate semester hours of coursework specifically related to diagnosis, treatment, appraisal and assessment of mental, emotional, behavioral and addiction disorders; and (3) performing post-graduate supervised experience in a clinical setting that provides substantial opportunities to diagnose, treat, appraise and assess mental, emotional, behavioral and addiction disorders.
- Provides for a one-year “grandfather” waiver of the requirements for the Licensed Art Therapist license for applicants holding ART-BC certification with at least three years of prior practice.
- Prohibits use of any title or designation intended to represent that an individual is licensed as art therapist or clinical art therapist unless they hold a valid license.
- Licenses must be renewed every two years with completion of 40 hours of approved continuing education.

Delaware – (2015)
- The bill amends existing statute sections to authorize a Licensed Professional Art Therapist (LPAT) license and a Licensed Associate Art Therapist (LAAT) license to be administered by the State Board of Mental Health and Chemical Dependency Professionals. It directs the Board to appoint one or more credentialed art therapists to advise and assist the Board in adopting rules and setting qualifications and procedures for licensing art therapists, evaluating and approving applicants, and adopting a code of ethics for practice of art therapy.
- Includes legislative findings that practice of art therapy affects public health and safety and requires appropriate regulation to protect the general public from unqualified and unsafe practice.
- Defines “art therapy,” “art therapy services” and “practice of art therapy.”
- Requirements for licensure as a Licensed Professional Art Therapist include: (1) a master’s or doctoral degree with a minimum 60 semester credit hours from an art therapy program approved by AATA or a program in a related field that is substantially equivalent to an art therapy degree program; (2) completion of two years, with a minimum of 3,000 hours, of supervised experience in art therapy, with at least 2,000 hours completed after receipt of the master’s degree; and (3) passing of the ATCB examination.
- Requirements for licensure as a Licensed Associate Art Therapist include: (1) meeting the education requirements for licensure as a LPAT; and (2) submitting an approved plan for supervised experience. Associate licenses expire in two years and can be renewed only once, but can be extended by the Board to address individual circumstances.
- Provides for a one-year “grandfather” waiver of the above licensing requirements for art therapists with master’s degrees with at least 45 graduate semester hours and at least 5 years
prior experience in the practice of art therapy, which may include up to two years of supervised practice.

- Prohibits individuals from holding themselves out to the public as licensed to engage in the practice of art therapy without a license, or from using any letters, designation or abbreviation that indicates or implies that they are licensed as a LPAT or PAAT.
- Requires Licenses to be renewed every two years with completion of 40 hours of approved continuing education.

**Florida – (2015)**

- The bill provides for a separate licensing statute to authorize a Licensed Professional Art Therapist (LPAT) license and Licensed Clinical Art Therapy (PCAT) license to be administered by the Division of Medical Quality Assurance in the Florida Department of Health. A five-member Advisory Council of Professional Art Therapists to advise and assist the Division in developing rules and procedures for licensure and to evaluate qualifications of applicants.
- Includes legislative findings that practice of art therapy presents a danger to public health and safety if applied beyond the competence of the practitioner, or if applied by individuals without appropriate training.
- Defines “art therapy,” “clinical art therapy,” “practice of professional art therapy,” and “accredited art therapy program” with reference to CAAHEP accreditation.
- Prohibits practice of professional art therapy or clinical art therapy, or use of a professional designation or other representation to suggest such licensure, without a valid license.
- Requirements for licensure as a Licensed Professional Art Therapist include: (1) a master’s or higher degree from an accredited art therapy program or a substantially equivalent program that includes at least 60 semester credit hours of coursework; (2) completion not less than three years, with a minimum of 3,000 hours, of supervised experience, of which a minimum of 2,000 hours are completed after completion of the master’s degree, and 1,500 hours involve direct contact with clients; and (3) passing of the ATCB examination.
- Describes criteria for determining a “substantially equivalent” program to an approved art therapy program.
- Requirements for licensure as a Licensed Clinical Art Therapist include: (1) meeting all requirements for licensure as a professional art therapist; (2) completing a minimum of 9 graduate semester hours of coursework specifically related to diagnosis, treatment, appraisal and assessment of mental, emotional, behavioral and addiction disorders; and (3) performing post-graduate supervised experience in a clinical setting that provides substantial opportunities to diagnose, treat, appraise and assess mental, emotional, behavioral and addiction disorders.
- Provides for a one-year “grandfather” waiver of the above licensing requirements to allow for licensure as a licensed professional art therapist by applicants holding ART-BC certification in good standing and at least five years’ of relevant practice in art therapy.
- Licenses must be renewed every two years with completion of 40 hours of approved continuing education.
- Includes amendments to relevant sections of Florida law identifying art therapy as a qualified specialized instructional service in prekindergarten programs for children with disabilities and licensed professional art therapists as qualified private instructional personnel to provide specialized services to children with emotional and developmental disabilities in public schools.
**Iowa – (2015)**

- The bill amends existing statute sections to provide for a separate Licensed Clinical Art Therapist (LCAT) license to be administered by the Iowa Board of Behavioral Health. It adds a licensed clinical art therapist to the nine-member Board (replacing one of three current public members).
- Defines “art therapy” and “clinical art therapy.”
- Prohibits the practice of clinical art therapy unless licensed for that purpose by the Board.
- Requirements for licensure as a Licensed Clinical Art Therapist include: (1) a master’s or doctoral degree consisting of at least 60 semester hours, or its equivalent, from a program approved by AATA or a substantially equivalent programs; (2) completion of at least two years of supervised experience in a clinical setting that provides opportunities to diagnose, treat, appraise and assess mental, emotional, behavioral and addiction disorders; and (3) passing of the ATCB examination.
- Describes criteria for determining a “substantially equivalent” program to an approved art therapy program.
- Provides for a Temporary License in Clinical Art Therapy” for applicants who meet all requirements for licensure except completion of the postgraduate supervised clinical experience requirement. The temporary license is valid for three years and can be renewed by the Board.
- Provides for a one-year “grandfather” waiver of the above licensing requirements to allow for licensure as a licensed clinical art therapist by applicants who hold ART-BC certification in good standing and have engaged in the practice of art therapy in a clinical setting for not less than five years prior to the bill’s effective date.
- Provides for biennial license renewal with evidence of completion of 40 hours of continuing education, consistent with requirements for maintaining ATR-BC certification.

**Kansas – (2016)**

- The bill amends existing statute sections to authorize a Licensed Professional Art Therapy (LPAT) license and a Licensed Clinical Art Therapy (LCAT) license to be administered by the Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board. The bill adds a licensed art therapist to the current twelve-member board.
- Defines “art therapy” and “clinical art therapy.”
- Prohibits the practice of professional art therapy or clinical art therapy without having first obtained a license.
- Requirements for licensure as a Licensed Professional Art Therapist include: (1) earning a master’s or higher degree that includes a minimum of 60 graduate credit hours from - (a) an art therapy program approved by AATA or by a successor accrediting organization recognized by CHEA, or (b) a program in a related field that is substantially equivalent to a master’s degree program in art therapy; (2) completing 1,5000 hours of supervised experience in the practice of art therapy; and (3) passing the ATCB certification examination.
- Describes criteria for determining a “substantially equivalent” program to an approved art therapy program.
- Requirements for licensure as a Licensed Clinical Art Therapist include: (1) having met the requirements for licensure as a professional art therapist; (2) completing at least fifteen semester credit hours of graduate courses in diagnosis, treatment and assessment of mental, emotion, and addiction disorders; (3) completing not less than three years, with a minimum of 4,000 hours, of supervised experience, with not less than 3,000 hours of supervised
experience in clinical settings following receipt of the masters degree that include at least 1,500 hours of direct client contact; and (4) passing of the ATCB examination or other clinical examination approved by the board.

- Requires that a licensed professional art therapist who intends to engage in supervised experience to qualify for licensure as a clinical art therapist must first submit a supervised training plan for board approval, and work under qualified supervisors in clinical settings that provide experience in diagnosing and treating mental, emotional and addiction disorders.
- Provides for a one-year “grandfather” waiver of the requirements for licensure as a professional art therapist for applicants who hold a master’s or doctoral degree in art therapy or an acceptable related field and have engaged in the practice of art therapy for not less than five years prior to the bill’s effective date.
- Provides for license renewal every two years with satisfactory completion of continuing education required by the board.
- Includes specific disclosures that licensed art therapists must provide upon initiating a client-therapist relationship relating to academic degrees, licenses, limitations on practice, and potential medical or biological origins of certain mental health disorders.

**Virginia – (2016)**

- The bill amends existing statute sections to authorize a Licensed Professional Art Therapy (LPAT) license to be administered by the Virginia Board of Counseling. It creates an Advisory Board on Art Therapy of at least three licensed art therapists appointed by the Chairperson of the board to advise and assist the board in developing regulations governing the licensing and practice of art therapy and reviewing qualifications of applicants.
- Defines “art therapy” and “practice of professional art therapy” and include a defined scope of practice for licensed professional art therapists.
- Prohibits anyone without a valid license from practicing as a professional art therapist or claiming to be a licensed professional art therapist.
- Requirements for licensure as a professional art therapist include: (1) a master’s degree in art therapy from a program approved by AATA (or a successor accrediting organization) or a substantially equivalent master’s degree in a related field; (2) completion of supervised clinical experience equal to or greater than the hour requirements for professional counselors, and (3) passing the ATCB examination.
- Waives the requirement for licensure for art therapists holding master’s degrees and practicing art therapy under supervision of a licensed mental health practitioner or under a licensed mental health facility.
- Provides for license renewal every two years with satisfactory completion of continuing education required by the board.
- Provides for a “grandfather” period during which the board may waive the requirements for licensure and grant licenses to art therapists with qualified master’s degrees and at least seven years of prior experience in the practice of art therapy.

**Tennessee – (2016)**

- The bill amends existing statute sections to authorize a Licensed Professional Art Therapy (LPAT) license to be administered by the Tennessee Board of Psychology. It creates a Professional Art therapist Advisory Committee of three licensed art therapists appointed by the Governor to advise and assist the board in implementing the sections of the act relating to the qualifications, licensing, practice, and regulation of licensed professional art therapists.
• Includes a statement of purpose that licensure of art therapists and creation of an art therapist advisory committee are intended to protect the public from practice of art therapy from unqualified persons and to prevent unethical and harmful conduct by art therapy practitioners.
• Defines “art therapy” and “practice of professional art therapy.”
• Provides detailed duties and responsibilities of the board of psychology and the art therapist advisory committee.
• Includes requirements for licensure as a Licensed Professional Art Therapist that parallel requirements for ATCB board certification, including: (1) a master’s or doctoral degree from either (a) an art therapy program that was approved by AATA or accredited by CAAHEP at the time the degree was conferred, and 1,000 client contact hours of post-graduate supervised experience, or (b) an equivalent graduate-level course of study and 2,000 client contact hours of post-graduate supervised experience, and (2) passing of the ATCB certification examination.
• States that individuals holding ATCB board certification have met the requirements for licensure.
• Provides for license renewal every two years with satisfactory completion of 40 hours of continuing education prior to the date of expiration of the license.
• Prohibits anyone without a valid license from practicing as a professional art therapist or claiming to be a licensed professional art therapist.
• Waives the requirement for licensure for art therapy graduates engaged in the practice of professional art therapy under supervision as part of clinical training to fulfill the supervised experience requirement for licensure.
• Includes provisions for revoking and restoring expired licenses.
• Clarifies that licensed professional art therapists are not authorized to administer prescription drugs, but may utilize appropriate art therapy assessment instruments to diagnose and treat mental health problems and dysfunctions consistent with their professional training.

Oregon – (2016)
• The bill provides new statute sections authorize issuing of licenses as a licensed art therapist and licensed certified art therapist by the Health Licensing Office of the Oregon Department of Health.
• Defines “art therapy” and “practice of art therapy.”
• Establishes criteria for licensure as a licensed art therapist (LAT) based on holding an ATR credential.
• Establishes requirements for licensure as a licensed certified art therapist (LCAT) as holding the ATR-BC credential.
• Provides for a one-year “grandfather” period during which the Office may waive the requirements for licensure and grant licenses as licensed art therapists to individuals holding master’s degrees in art therapy and at least five years of prior practice of art therapy in the state.
• Prohibits anyone without a valid license from practicing art therapy, providing services included in the practice of art therapy, or using any title or designation to represent or imply licensure or authorization to practice art therapy.
• Waives the requirement for licensure and the prohibition against representing services as art therapy for students enrolled in art therapy programs, art therapy graduates engaged in
supervised experience to fulfill requirements for credentialing and licensure, and also individuals holding other state licenses who also hold ATCB credentials in good standing.

- Requires all persons licensed to practice art therapy or exempted from licensure under the bill to engage in practice consistent with the Code of Ethics, Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures of the Art Therapy Credentials Board, Inc.
- Provides clarification that licensed art therapists may engage in assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of mental health problems and disorders that they have specific training to diagnose and treat, but may not perform psychological testing intended to diagnose mental illness.
- Amends existing law to extend the administrative and enforcement authority of the Health Licensing Office to regulation of art therapists.

**South Carolina – (2016)**

- The bill adds a new article to an existing statute to authorize a Licensed Professional Art Therapist (LPAT) license to be administered by the State Board of Examiners for the Licensure of Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists and Psycho-educational Specialists.
- Directs the Board to appoint an Art Therapy Advisory Committee consisting of at least two licensed professional art therapists and a public member to advise and assist the Board in adopting rules and setting qualifications and procedures for licensing art therapists, evaluating and approving applicants, providing guidelines for supervised practice and continuing education, and adopting a code of ethics and practice for art therapists.
- Defines “professional art therapy,” and “practice of professional art therapy.”
- Prohibits persons without a license issued by the board from practicing professional art therapy.
- Provides exemptions from the requirement for licensure including art therapy graduates engaged in supervised practice to qualify for certification and licensure.
- Includes requirements for licensure as a Licensed Professional Art Therapist that parallel requirements for ATCB board certification, including: (1) a master’s or doctoral degree from either (a) an art therapy program that was approved by AATA or accredited by CAAHEP at the time the degree was conferred, and 1,000 client contact hours of post-graduate supervised experience, or (b) an equivalent graduate-level course of study and 2,000 client contact hours of post-graduate supervised experience, and (2) passing of the ATCB certification examination.
- Provides for license renewal every two years with satisfactory completion of continuing education required by the board.
- Provides for a one-year “grandfather” waiver of the specific requirements for licensure as a professional art therapist for applicants who hold an ATR credential and have practiced art therapy in the state for at least 5 years.
- Provides clarification that licensed art therapists may engage in assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of mental health problems and disorders that they have specific training to diagnose and treat, but may not perform psychological testing intended to diagnose mental illnesses.
- Applies the administrative and disciplinary policies and procedures in the boarder statute to the licensing and regulation of art therapists.
Notes:

- In addition to the highlighted points in each bill summary, all chapter bills have included important, but generally consistent, provisions relating to the following: (1) requiring licensure to practice art therapy in the state; (2) waiving the requirements for licensure for students performing art therapy services as part of an approved course of studies in art therapy; (3) providing licenses by reciprocity for applicants with art therapy licenses from other states or jurisdictions with comparable licensing requirements; (4) providing clarification that the bill’s licensing requirement is not intended to apply to, or limit the practice of, other licensed professionals licensed by the state who act within the scope of their profession and training, provided they do not hold themselves out to the public as licensed to practice art therapy.

- AATA encourages use of consistent definitions relating to art therapy and the practice of art therapy to provide a uniform professional image of art therapy in all states and to promote license portability. However, the difference in the terms that are defined in each bill, as well as the structure and wording of those definitions, often may need to correspond with either the structure of the state licensing statutes that are amended or comparable license-related definitions for other mental health professions licensed by the same state board or agency.

- The bill summaries omit descriptions of bill sections relating to licensing board or agency regulatory authority, criteria for denying or revoking licenses, and disciplinary actions and procedures, which must be consistent in wording and reference with each state’s professional licensing and law enforcement statutes and procedures.

AATA -- Updated (November 2016)