

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 127

By Sparks

A RESOLUTION commemorating Tennessee Music Therapy Week.

WHEREAS, Tennesseans enjoy myriad musical styles and celebrate the use of music in all settings; and

WHEREAS, understanding the healing power of music, the State of Tennessee has officially adopted a number of State songs, including "Amazing Grace," with the enabling legislation for that particular song sponsored by Representative Mike Sparks; and

WHEREAS, music therapy is the clinical and evidence-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program; and

WHEREAS, music therapy can help individuals express emotions, improve social skills, increase self-confidence, cope with loss, develop motor skills, improve relaxation skills, and increase concentration; and

WHEREAS, music therapy is a health field that offers benefits across all developmental domains and supports individuals of all ages and ability levels, including children, adolescents, adults, and the elderly, with mental health needs, developmental and learning disabilities, aging-related conditions, substance use disorders, brain injuries, physical disabilities, eating disorders, and chronic pain; and

WHEREAS, a music therapist is an individual who has completed an educational program approved by the American Music Therapy Association, which includes clinical training, and holds the Music Therapist-Board Certified (MT-BC) credential issued by the Certification Board for Music Therapists; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee has a thriving music therapy industry, with 173 board-certified music therapists working in various settings across the State; and

WHEREAS, students can explore this field in music therapy degree programs at Austin Peay State University, Belmont University, and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, on May 28, 2024, Governor Bill Lee signed into law Public Chapter 1010 of 2024, which creates a music therapy certificate under the Board of Examiners in Psychology and establishes a Professional Music Therapy Advisory Committee, ensuring quality care for Tennessee residents; and

WHEREAS, used around the world, music therapy is celebrated in Europe on November 15, and the World Federation of Music Therapy organizes World Music Therapy Day on March 1; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join with our fellow citizens in celebrating the impact of music therapy by commemorating the week of March 2, 2025, as "Tennessee Music Therapy Week."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.