**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**SESSION 2019**

**SESSION LAW \_\_\_\_\_**

**SENATE BILL \_\_\_\_**

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ART tHERAPY PRACTICE aCT.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

  **SECTION 1.**  Chapter 90 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new Article to read:

 “Article 43.

 “Art Therapy Practice Act.

"**§ 90-726.  Short title.**

 This act shall be known and may be cited as the “North Carolina Art Therapy Practice Act**.”**

"**§ 90-727.  Purpose.**

It is the purpose of this Article to safeguard the public health, safety and welfare and to protect the public from being harmed by unqualified persons by providing for the licensure and regulation of persons engaged in the practice of art therapy and by establishment of standards of education, training, and competency for persons engaged in the practice of art therapy.

"**§ 90-728.  Definitions.**

The following definitions apply to this Article:

(1) ‘Art therapist’ means a person licensed to practice art therapy under the provisions of this Article.

(2) ‘Art therapy certified supervisor’ means a certified art therapist holding the art therapy certified supervisor (atcs) credential from the Art Therapy Credentials Board, Inc.

(3) ‘Art therapy’ means the integrated application of psychotherapeutic principles and methods with specialized training in visual art media, the neurobiological implications of art-making and the creative process, and art-based assessment models to assist individuals, families, or groups to improve cognitive and sensory- motor functions, increase self-awareness and self-esteem, cope with grief and traumatic experience, resolve conflicts and distress, and enhance social functioning.

(4) ‘Associate art therapist’ means a person licensed to practice art therapy under supervision issued under the provisions of this Article.

(5) ‘Board’ means the North Carolina Board of Art Therapy.