



New Jersey Passes Bill for Art Therapy Licensure

AATA

On January 11, 2016, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie signed the bill that provides for the licensure of art therapists in the state of NJ, A-1783/S-2020 (McKeon, Ribble, Sumter, Moriarty/Vitale, Cunningham) – “[Art Therapist Licensing Act](#).” All current practitioners with the [ATR-BC credentials](#) will be grandfathered in, while those who have their ATR will be required to obtain the BC in order to become licensed. Development of the application and the licensing board will take place in the next year.

Remarks from Pamela Ullman, MS, ATR-BC, ATCS, President of NJATA:

All of us on the board and task force of the New Jersey Art Therapy Association (NJATA) are overwhelmed with the feeling of success and satisfaction after a six year journey. We are so thankful to those who pioneered these efforts. From the first step, we want to thank Joseph Jaworek, who drafted the bill and was initially the motivation for all of us. Furthermore, we could not have done it without Laura Salley, our past-president of NJATA (2012-2013). She not only started the legislative actions during her reign, but took us to the finish line even after her tenure as president was complete. Many thanks also to our GAC, Suzanne Dufour for all her efforts in keeping things moving. Lastly, thank you to all the NJATA members who took the time to make calls and write letters to our representatives. There were many doubters that said it could not be done in this state, but this was a clear triumphant victory!

Support from the AATA National Office, and Director of Public Policy Dean Sagar, was also crucial to the success of this bill.

For details and updates about the process, visit NJATA’s [Facebook](#) page.

For information and resources on the status of art therapy licensure in your state, AATA members can visit our page on [public policy and advocacy](#).