

POLICY E.9

Subject: **Licensure**

Code: **RA Resolution 400-74, 500-77 and 501-77 (Supersedes Resolution 376-74),
RA Motion 2003M54**

PURPOSE: To state the Association's position regarding the licensure of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants.

IT SHALL BE THE POLICY OF THE ASSOCIATION THAT:

1. The Association supports licensure of qualified occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants in order to protect consumers from services by unqualified practitioners, the right of qualified occupational therapists to provide occupational therapy services, and the right of occupational therapy assistants to assist in the provision of occupational therapy services.
2. The Association respects the autonomy and rights of affiliated state occupational therapy associations and the authority of their respective state legislatures.
3. The Association encourages the use of *The Association Definition of Occupational Therapy Practice for State Regulation* and *The AOTA Model Occupational Therapy Practice Act* to ensure state-by-state uniformity of standards of practice, scope of occupational therapy practice, supervision standards, entry-level licensing requirements, and consumer protection, as well as to facilitate geographical mobility of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants.
4. The Association shall support those legislative bills that are in concert with currently established policies as indicated below:
 - a. The legislation should include licensing of both occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants.
 - b. The legislation should include temporary or provisional licensure for new graduates and for new residents of an election area.

POLICY E.9 (cont'd)
Licensure

- c. The legislation should include minimum licensure requirements. Under the legislation, an applicant applying for a license as an occupational therapist or as an occupational therapy assistant must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the licensing board or agency.
 - i. “Good standing”, as defined in the *Association Model Occupational Therapy Practice Act*, means the individual’s license, certification, or registration is not currently suspended or revoked by any State regulatory entity. ii) Successful completion of academic requirements of an educational program for occupational therapists or occupational therapy assistants that is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE®) or predecessor organizations.
 - ii. Successful completion of a period of supervised fieldwork experience required by the recognized educational institution where the applicant met the academic requirements described in Section (4)(c)(2) of this document.
 - iii. Passage of the entry-level examination approved by the state regulatory board for occupational therapy.
 - d. The legislation should include minimum continuing competence requirements for licensure renewal. The Association supports the enforcement role of the state licensing board or agency in assuring the ongoing qualifications of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants and recognizing multiple methods and pathways for occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants to demonstrate their continuing competence.
 - e. Exclusion clauses in the legislation should only deal with those professions and occupations licensed in state.
5. In the event that any legislation is proposed that is in conflict with these established policies, the President and/or designee(s) are authorized to bring the discrepancies to the attention of all members in the state and work for modifications of the bill or take action necessary to safeguard the integrity of the profession.

Effective: 10/77

Revised: 4/78, 3/81, 4/96, 4/99, 5/02, 6/03, 7/15, 10/16

BPPC Reviewed: 10/01, 1/02, 1/03, 1/04, 1/09, 7/15, 10/16

Rescinded: