



## ConnOTA 2026 Legislative Brief

### Supporting CT's Participation in the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact

#### Our Request

ConnOTA seeks **Public Health Committee support** to advance legislation allowing Connecticut to **join the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact**. Doing so requires **modernizing Connecticut's Occupational Therapy Practice Act (CGS Chapter 376a)**.

#### Why This Matters

Connecticut's OT Practice Act dates to **1978**. Since then, occupational therapy practice has expanded across healthcare, education, mental health, and community settings. As written, the statute **creates barriers to workforce mobility** and **will prevent Connecticut from participating in the OT Compact**.

More than **30 states have enacted legislation to join the compact**. Connecticut is the only New England state without active legislation. Aligning Connecticut's statute ensures the state remains competitive and responsive to workforce needs.

#### Why the Compact Matters

The OT Licensure Compact allows qualified practitioners to practice across state lines while maintaining state oversight and public protection. Participation would:

- Improve access to care, especially in border regions
- Strengthen the healthcare and education workforce
- Reduce administrative barriers **without expanding scope**

#### Readiness

ConnOTA has spent **seven years** reviewing OT practice acts nationwide, engaging stakeholders, and **has already completed the Department of Public Health Scope Review process**. Proposed updates align with **American Occupational Therapy Association** and **National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy** standards and reflect laws already adopted in peer states.

#### Public Health Impact

Occupational therapy supports mental health, education, workforce participation, and aging in place. Modernizing the law is a **public interest investment** that improves access to timely, cost-effective care.

#### Closing

ConnOTA respectfully seeks **Public Health Committee support** to modernize the OT Practice Act and enable Connecticut to join the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact.

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## Summary of Recommended Revisions to CGS Chapter 376a

### Title

**a. Revise Title.** Change from *Occupational Therapists* to *Occupational Therapy* to reflect the profession and clarify that the statute applies to both occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants.

### Sec. 20-74a. Definitions

**b. Update Definition of Occupational Therapy.** Modernize the definition to reflect current practice, advancements in the profession, and best practices, improving clarity and public protection.

**c. Update Definition of Occupational Therapy Assistant.** Revise language to reflect current practice: “under the supervision of **and in partnership with** a licensed occupational therapist.”

**d. Add Definition of Good Standing.** Define “good standing” for licensure purposes to reduce ambiguity and align with usage across professional and regulatory contexts.

**e. Add Definition of Occupation.** Define “occupation” to clarify a core concept of occupational therapy and reduce misunderstanding by those outside the profession.

### Sec. 20-74b. Licensing Examination

**f. Update Licensing Examination Language.** Align terminology with current education, accreditation, and national standards to reduce confusion and support future updates.

### Sec. 20-74c. License by Endorsement

**g. No changes proposed**

### Sec. 20-74d. Temporary Permit; Practice Pending Examination Results

**h. Update Terminology.** Change *field* to *fieldwork* and *licensure examination* to *certification examination* to reflect national certification requirements.

### Sec. 20-74e. Exempt Activities

**i. Update Pronouns.** Replace gendered language with gender-neutral terms.

**j. Clarify Practice Language.** Change “performing occupational therapy” to “practicing occupational therapy.”

**k. Include Occupational Therapy Assistants.** Clarify applicability to occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants.

### Sec. 20-74f. Licensing Fee; Use of Title or Designation

**l. Update Credential Designations.** Remove state-granted use of registration and certification credentials, which are issued by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT).

**m. Clarify Licensure Authority.** Replace *registration* with *license/licensure* to reflect DPH authority.

**n. Update Pronouns.** Replace gendered language with gender-neutral terms.

### Sec. 20-74g. Disciplinary Action

**o. Include Occupational Therapy Assistants.** Ensure disciplinary provisions apply to both occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants.

**p. Update Pronouns.** Replace gendered language with gender-neutral terms.

**q. Clarify Licensure Terminology.** Replace *registration* with *license* to reflect DPH authority.

### Sec. 20-74h. License Renewal; Training or Education Requirement

#### Sec. 20-74i. Regulations

**r. Update Competence Language.** Replace *competency* with *competence* to support continuing competence and lifelong learning in the interest of public protection.

**s. No changes proposed**

**No Scope Expansion.** These updates **do not expand the scope of practice**. They are technical, clarifying, and modernizing changes to align with current professional standards, terminology, and public protection requirements.