



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.