

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Notice of Agency Rulemaking Proposal

AGENCY NAME: 02-477, Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation, Board of Occupational Therapy Practice

CHAPTER NUMBER AND RULE TITLE: Chapter 7, Code of Ethics

TYPE OF RULE: Routine Technical

PROPOSAL FILING NUMBER: *[Leave Blank - Assigned by the Department of the Secretary of State]*

BRIEF SUMMARY: The Board of Occupational Therapy Practice proposes to adopt the 2025 American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) Code of Ethics. Copies of the proposed rule and the rulemaking documents can be accessed at

<https://www.maine.gov/pfr/professionallicensing/professions/board-occupational-therapy-practice>.

PUBLIC HEARING *(include day, date, time, and location):* N/A. Pursuant to 5 M.R.S. § 8052(1) and § 8053(7)(A), a hearing may be requested by five (5) interested persons by submitting a request in writing to the contact person for this filing.

COMMENT DEADLINE *(include day, date, and time):* Friday, November 6, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. EST.

Comments on the proposed rule may be submitted by emailing Candice.B.Wright@maine.gov or by mailing comments to the Maine Board of Occupational Therapy Practice, Attn: Candice Wright, 35 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0035.

CONTACT PERSON FOR THIS FILING *(include name; mailing address; telephone number; fax number; TTY (teletypewriter) number; and email address):*

Candice Wright, Regulatory Board Manager, 35 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0035, T: 207-624-8601, TTY: Maine relay 711, F: 207-624-8637, Candice.B.Wright@maine.gov

CONTACT PERSON FOR SMALL BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT *(if different):* N/A

FINANCIAL IMPACT ON MUNICIPALITIES OR COUNTIES *(if any):* N/A

STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR THIS RULE: 32 M.R.S. § 2274(2)

SUBSTANTIVE STATE OR FEDERAL LAW BEING IMPLEMENTED *(if different):* N/A

AGENCY WEBSITE: <https://www.maine.gov/pfr/professionallicensing/professions/board-occupational-therapy-practice>

EMAIL ADDRESS FOR OVERALL AGENCY RULEMAKING LIAISON: Penny.Vaillancourt@maine.gov

Choose one of the following: *The summary provided above is for publication in both the newspaper and website notices.*

Additional Information for the Web Notice (If Applicable)

DETAILED SUMMARY:

Click or tap here to enter text.

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Rulemaking Fact Sheet

(See 5 M.R.S. § 8057-A(1))

Agency Name: 02-477, Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation, Board of Occupational Therapy Practice

Name, Address, Telephone Number, and Email Address of Agency Contact Person:

Candice Wright, Regulatory Board Manager, 35 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0035, T: 207-624-8601, TTY: Maine relay 711, Candice.B.Wright@maine.gov

Chapter Number and Rule Title: Chapter 7, Code of Ethics

Type of Rule: Routine Technical

Rule Action: Amendment of Existing Rule

Is this an emergency rule?: No

Statutory Authority: 32 M.R.S. § 2274(2)

Public Hearing(s) *(include day, date, time, and location)*: N/A. Pursuant to 5 M.R.S. § 8052(1) and §8053(7)(A), a hearing may be requested by five (5) interested persons by submitting a request in writing to the contact person for this filing.

Comment Deadline(s) *(include day, date, and time)*: Friday, November 6, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. EST.

Principal Reason(s) or Purpose for Proposing this Rule [see 5 M.R.S. § 8057-A(1)(A)]:

The rule is proposed to update the Board's code of ethics from the 2020 AOTA Occupational Therapy Code of Ethics to the 2025 AOTA Code of Ethics.

Is Material Incorporated by Reference into the Rule [see 5 M.R.S. § 8056(2-A)]? Yes

Analysis and Expected Operation of the Rule [see 5 M.R.S. § 8057-A(1)(B) & (D)]:

It is expected it will update the code of ethics adopted by the board to reflect the most recent version published by the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA).

Brief Summary of Relevant Information Considered During Development of the Rule (including up to 3 primary sources relied upon)[see 5 M.R.S. §§ 8057-A(1)(E) & 8063-B]:

Expertise of board members and materials provided by AOTA.

Estimated Fiscal Impact of the Rule [see 5 M.R.S. § 8057-A(1)(C)]:

N/A.

FOR EXISTING RULES WITH FISCAL IMPACT OF \$1 MILLION OR MORE, ALSO INCLUDE:

Economic Impact, Whether or Not Quantifiable in Monetary Terms [see 5 M.R.S. § 8057-A(2)(A)]:

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Individuals, Major Interest Groups and Types of Businesses Affected and How They Will Be Affected [see 5 M.R.S. § 8057-A(2)(B)]:

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Benefits of the Rule [see 5 M.R.S. § 8057-A(2)(C)]:

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Note: If necessary, additional pages may be used.

Chapter 7: CODE OF ETHICS

SUMMARY: This chapter adopts a code of ethics for occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants and temporary licenses.

1. Adoption; Compliance

The board adopts and hereby incorporates by reference the *AOTA 2025~~0~~ Occupational Therapy Code of Ethics*, Copyright © 2025~~0~~, of the American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc., published online on December 4~~2~~1, 2025~~0~~ (hereinafter the “2025~~0~~ AOTA Code of Ethics”). A copy of the 2025~~0~~ Code of Ethics is available by accessing *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, November/December 2025~~0~~, Vol. 79~~4~~ (Supplement 3), <https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2025.79S302> ~~s~~<https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2020.74S3006>, or by sending a request for a copy via e-mail to ethics@aota.org. The 2025~~0~~ AOTA Code of Ethics is the ethical standard of practice for persons holding a license to practice occupational therapy in this State. All practitioners must comply with the 2025~~0~~ AOTA Code of Ethics.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

32 M.R.S. ~~A~~ §2274(2)

EFFECTIVE DATE:

June 3, 2001

REPEALED AND REPLACED:

November 13, 2012 – filing 2012-321

AMENDED:

January 25, 2023 – filing 2023-014