

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill changes the type of oversight of speech-language pathologists and audiologists from registration to licensure and amends the scope of practice and educational requirements for both professions.

Section

- 1 **Conforming language.** Changes "registration" to "licensure."
- 2 **Definition amended.** Definition of accredited institution changed to eliminate post secondary institutions other than universities or colleges that offer graduate degrees in speech-language pathology or audiology. Changes the required accrediting body.
- 3 **Conforming language.**
- 4 **Conforming language.**
- 5 **Reference changed.** Adopts preferred form of reference to commissioner of health.
- 6 **Hour defined.** Changes definition of a contact hour from 50 to 60 minutes, for purposes of continuing education required for license renewal.
- 7 **Scope of audiology practice amended.** Provides a new and non-inclusive list of activities that are within the scope of practice for licensed audiologists. New activities include: assessment and management of tinnitus, determination of cochlear implant candidacy, electrophysiologic measurements of neural functioning, identification, evaluation and management of students with auditory dysfunction, consultation with educators, otoscopic exams and external ear canal management, management of newborn hearing screening programs, and evaluation and management of persons with auditory processing disorders.
- 8 **Scope of speech-language pathology practice amended.** Provides a new and non-inclusive list of activities that are within the scope of practice for licensed speech-language pathologists. New list includes: more specific list of disorders for which speech-language

pathologists may provide screening, diagnosis, treatment, management and counseling; specific screening methodologies and instrumentation that may be used; and selection and fitting of certain prosthetic and adaptive devices.

9 **Conforming language.**

10 **Conforming language.**

11 **Conforming language.**

12 **Conforming language.**

13 **Doctoral clinical experience.** Language change from "individual" to person, and adds doctoral clinical experience to a list of positions held by supervisees.

14 **Additional back-up supervisors.** Conforming language change and adds persons board certified in audiology as permitted back-up supervisors.

15 **Unlicensed practice prohibited; additional protected titles.** Prohibits the practice of speech-language pathology or audiology without a license and adds 15 new protected titles. Allows practice of speech-language pathology or audiology by other professionals to the extent that it is within the scope of their license, certification, or registration. Allows practice by students in supervised field work if their title clearly indicates "student trainee."

16 **Conforming language.**

17 **Educational requirements amended.** Replaces specific coursework requirements with requirement that applicant must have a master's or doctoral degree from an institution with an accredited program

18 **Clinical experience requirements amended.** Replaces specific clinical experience requirements with requirement that applicant must meet the clinical experience requirements of either the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association or the American Board of Audiology and pass the appropriate national examination.

19 **Licensure by equivalency.** Conforming language and adds board certification by the American Board of Audiology as a basis for licensure by equivalency.

20 **Temporary registration replaced.** Replaces temporary registration with clinical fellowship licensure or doctoral internship licensure.

21 **Licensure by reciprocity.** Requires current credentials that have been held for at least five years for licensure by reciprocity. Current law includes no time requirement. Includes conforming language.

22 **Lapsed license.** Eliminates the distinction in current law between licenses lapsed for three years or less and those lapsed for more than three years. The retesting provision now applicable to licenses lapsed for more than three years no longer applies. The coursework requirement applies to all lapsed licenses under this bill. Includes conforming language.

23 **Application procedures.** Adds requirement that application for licensure include a certificate of clinical competence. Requires notification of denial of license to be sent by certified mail. Provides for review of denials by commissioner prior to appeal of denials to the advisory council. Conforming language.

24 **Conforming language.**

25 **Conforming language.**

26 **Conforming language.**

27 **Alternative continuing education.** License renewal continuing education requirements may be met by demonstrating compliance with the requirements of either the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association or the American Board of Audiology. Conforming language.

28 **Alternative means of demonstrating compliance.** Permits proof of attendance at continuing education programs by other means if certificate not available. Conforming language.

29 **Conforming language.**

30 **Conforming language.**

31 **Conforming language.**

- 32 **Conforming language.**
- 33 **Conforming language.**
- 34 **Conforming language.**
- 35 **Conforming language.**
- 36 **Disciplinary action.** Amends cause for disciplinary action from failure to provide information requested by the commissioner within 30 days to within 60 days. Also requires that the request for information have been made by certified mail. Changes accreditation entity of institutions whose graduates are permitted to use specified titles.
- 37 **Civil penalty added.** Provides a civil penalty up to \$7,500 plus costs of investigation and proceedings for violations.
- 38 **Conforming language.**
- 39 **Conforming language.**
- 40 **Conforming language.**
- 41 **Exemption from written exam for hearing instrument dispensers.** Amends exemption to include licensed audiologists and persons board certified in audiology or holding certificates of clinical competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.
- 42 **Conforming language.**
- 43 **Conforming language.**
- 44 **Conforming language.**
- 45 **Revisor instruction.**
- 46 **Repealer.** Repeals definition of "individual" and specific clinical training requirements.