

HB 288 -- SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS

SPONSOR: Dohrman

This bill changes the laws regarding speech-language pathologists, speech-language pathology assistants, and audiologists. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Allows a speech-language pathology assistant to work under the direction of a licensed speech-language pathologist practicing for at least one year or a speech-language pathologist who is either employed by a federal agency or licensed by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education;

(2) Requires an applicant for registration with the Board of Registration for the Healing Arts within the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration as a speech-language pathology assistant must furnish evidence of his or her completion of bachelor's level course work and clinical requirements in the field of speech-language pathology as established by the board. Currently, an applicant must furnish evidence that he or she holds a bachelor's degree in speech-language pathology and has completed clinical requirements equivalent to that required by a regional accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education;

(3) Repeals the requirement that a corporation engaged in the business of speech-language pathology or audiology who employs a licensed speech-language pathologist or audiologist must file a statement with the board specifying that the corporation submits itself to the rules and regulations of the board;

(4) Specifies that the licensing requirements do not apply to a person who holds a current certificate issued by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education prior to January 1, 2016, who is an employee of a public school;

(5) Repeals provisions requiring an applicant for licensure as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist to present written evidence of completion of a clinical fellowship;

(6) Specifies that following an administrative hearing proceeding and a finding that grounds for disciplinary action have been met, the board may also restrict or limit the person's ability to practice for an indefinite period of time;

(7) Requires every speech-language pathology assistant to provide and maintain at all times the employment information as the board deems necessary;

(8) Allows a person who has served as a member of the Advisory Commission for Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologist for two consecutive terms to be reappointed until a lapse of at least two years has occurred following the completion of the person's two consecutive terms; and

(9) Repeals the provisions allowing a person to hold a provisional license to practice speech-language pathology or audiology.