

HB 2095 -- SPEECH PATHOLOGISTS AND AUDIOLOGISTS

SPONSOR: Shawan

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass by Consent" by the Standing Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 11 to 0. Voted "Do Pass- Consent" by the Standing Committee on Consent and House Procedure by a vote of 13 to 0.

Currently, an applicant for licensure as a speech pathologist and audiologist must have a Master's Doctoral Degree from a program accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association or other approved accrediting agency.

This bill allows the degree to be from a program that was awarded "accreditation candidate" status.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill will address concerns about soon to be graduates at schools in the state that are currently in the accreditation process. The accreditation for a university is a long process and may take at least two years, this bill will allow those students that will be graduating to feel more confident that they will be able to get their license.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Shawan; Center For Hearing and Speech; Missouri Speech Language Hearing Association; and Margaret Onken, Maryville University.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that this is a gray area and the bill would help clarify this issue and make things easier.

Testifying on the bill was the Missouri Division of Professional Registration.