



## **Model Bill for State Licensure Of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists—February 2011**

### **Background**

Since 1972, the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) has maintained a model bill for the state licensure of speech-language pathologists and audiologists. The model bill is an example of licensure legislation which holds consumer protection paramount and is based on current licensure practices and existing ASHA policies. The model bill is presented as a prototype for state regulation of speech-language pathologists and audiologists. It is designed as an example to be modified to reflect individual state's needs. The current model bill replaces all previous versions and may be modified in the future. Note: There is a limited amount of information in the present version of the model bill on the topic of assistants. This is due to the fact that ASHA plans to revisit the issue of assistants and promulgate new policies on the topic. At such time as new policy is developed, a separate model bill will be drafted accordingly.

The model bill consists of suggested statutory language appearing on the left side of each page and an explanation section appearing on the right side. The comments contained in the explanation section are intended to address the questions, concerns and problems which generally arise, or which may arise, with the corresponding statutory provisions. References to ASHA policies and documents, outside sources, and common practices among the current state licensure programs for speech-language pathology and audiology are provided as a resource for users. The explanation section also advises users that states may have a prescribed manner for dealing with licensure legislation and licensure provisions. All new provisions are bolded.

### **Use**

The explanation section contains alternate approaches to certain provisions. These options are presented with the recognition that many state licensure issues are complex, and that each state's political, geographical, and demographic needs and situations must be considered in resolving specific issues such as grandparenting, exemptions and continued competency assurances.

ASHA acknowledges that complete uniformity among state licensure programs, although desirable, is unrealistic. States may choose to deviate from the ASHA model in whole, or in part, or may be required to deviate because of political or practical realities. However, the Association hopes that if state licensure laws, regulations and procedures can become more similar, the similarity may ease some of the problems licensed individuals experience when academic and/or experience requirements vary from national standards, when relocation from one licensed state to another licensed state occurs, or when the continuing education requirements of neighboring states differ.

## Contents

The model bill consists of five major sections or articles: General Provisions; Administration; Licenses; Disciplinary Actions and Severability. The following discussion highlights the major components of each section.

**Article 1. General Provisions** contains a statement of purpose, definitions describing various terms used in the document, provisions for speech-language pathology and audiology **assistants** and exclusions. Unique to this document is the provision that requires the informed consent of persons who are receiving services from speech-language pathology or audiology **assistants**. This section also contains a provision exempting from civil liability persons engaged in Peer Review Committee activities.

**Article 2. Administration** deals with matters specific to a board of examiners such as appointment, composition, compensation, powers and duties. One of the responsibilities of the board is the reporting of disciplinary actions to relevant state and federal authorities and to other state speech-language pathology and audiology licensing authorities.

**Article 3. Licenses** delineates such components of licensure as qualifications; waivers for persons practicing at the time the law takes effect; persons who received their education in a foreign country; persons holding licensure from another state or ASHA certification; restrictions for persons holding provisional licensure; and renewal and reinstatement stipulations.

**Article 4. Disciplinary Actions** includes the kinds of penalties that can be imposed and the actions for which penalties may be assigned. The model bill calls for a range of penalties to deal with a variety of grounds for disciplinary actions.

**Article 5. Severability deals with matters related to the constitutionality, termination and effective date of the language of the model bill.**



## Table of Contents

### Article 1. General Provision

- 1.01 Title
- 1.02 Purpose and Legislative Intent
- 1.03 Definitions
- 1.04 Audiology **Assistants** and Speech-Language Pathology Assistants
- 1.05 Persons and Practices Affected
- 1.06 Persons and Practices Not Affected
- 1.07 Fitting and Dispensing of Hearing Aids
- 1.08 Assessing, Selecting, Developing, and Fitting Products Related to Speech, Language, and Swallowing
- 1.09 Use of Endoscopy in Speech-Language Pathology**
- 1.10 Use of Telepractice in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Services**

### Article 2. Administration

- 2.01 Board of Examiners
- 2.02 Composition
- 2.03 Appointments
- 2.04 Terms
- 2.05 Meetings
- 2.06 Compensation
- 2.07 Powers and Duties of the Board
- 2.08 Disposition of Funds

### Article 3. Licenses

- 3.01 Qualifications
  - 3.02 Waiver of Requirements
  - 3.03 Provisional License
  - 3.04 Limited License**
  - 3.05 License Renewal
  - 3.06 Reinstatement of Expired Licenses
  - 3.07 Inactive License
  - 3.08 Reinstatement of Revoked License**
  - 3.09 Reciprocity**
  - 3.10 Internationally Educated Applicants**
- ### Article 4. Disciplinary Actions
- 4.01 Penalties
  - 4.02 Grounds
  - 4.03 Complaint Procedure in General
  - 4.04 Complaint Investigation and Disposition
  - 4.05 Due Process
  - 4.06 Monitoring of Licensure Holder
  - 4.07 Injunction
  - 4.08 Jurisdiction Over Unlicensed Practice**
  - 4.09 National Practitioners DataBank**
- ### Article 5 Severability
- 5.01 Severability
  - 5.02 Termination
  - 5.03 Effective Date

## Article 1. General Provisions

### 1.01 Title

This act may be cited as the “Licensure Act for Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists.”

### 1.02 Purpose and Legislative Intent

It is hereby declared to be a policy of this State that the practice of audiology and speech-language pathology is a privilege granted to qualified persons and that, in order to safeguard the public health, safety and welfare, protect the public from being misled by incompetent, unscrupulous, and unauthorized persons, and protect the public from unprofessional conduct

### Explanation

NOTE: The format used in this document is one example of legislative format. States may require that a specific organizational style be used in developing this kind of legislation.

NOTE: Bill drafters need to be aware of statutory interpretation in their states. Some states are permissive, meaning that activities or functions are permitted unless specifically prohibited in statute. Other states are restrictive, meaning that unless the statute specifically allows a function or activity it is prohibited. For example, in a restrictive state cerumen removal by audiologists would be prohibited unless the scope of practice in the licensure law specifically includes it. Drafters in restrictive

## Act

by qualified audiologists and speech-language pathologists, it is necessary to provide regulatory authority over persons offering audiology and speech-language pathology services to the public.

### 1.03 Definitions

In general, unless otherwise indicated in this Act, these words and terms have the following meanings:

(1) **Act** is defined as the Licensure Act relating to the licensing and regulation of audiologists and speech-language pathologists.

(2) **Audiologist** is defined as any person who engages in the practice of audiology and who meets the qualifications set forth in this Act. A person represents himself/herself to be an audiologist when he/she holds himself/herself out to the public by any means, or by any service or function performed, directly or indirectly, or by using the terms “audiology,” “audiologist,” “audiometry,” “audiometrist,” “**audiologic**,” “audiological,” “audioprosthologist,” “audiometrics,” “hearing therapy,” “hearing therapist,” “hearing clinic,” “hearing clinician,” “hearing center,” “hearing aid audiologist,” or any variation, synonym, coinage or other word that expresses, employs, or implies these terms, names or functions.

(3) **Audiology Assistant**, or any variation, synonym or coinage of the term, is defined as an individual who meets minimum qualifications established by the Board; does not act independently; and works under the direction and supervision of an audiologist licensed under this Act, **in accordance with standards promulgated by the Board, and performs only those duties specified in the rules and regulations.**

(4) **Board** is defined as the State Board of Examiners for Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology.

(5) **Department** is defined as (insert name of state agency responsible for administering the Act).

(6) **Instruction** is defined as (a) providing audiology or speech-language pathology services or teaching in infant/toddler, preschool, elementary or secondary school programs; or (b) teaching students in institutions of higher education.

## Explanation

states need to be more concerned about specific language.

### 1.03 Definitions are listed in alphabetical order.

(3) Many terms can be used to designate individuals who provide support services in audiology. The term, “assistant,” is used in the 1998 ASHA document, **American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (1998). *Support Personnel in Audiology: Position Statement and Guidelines [Guidelines, Position Statement]*. Available from [www.asha.org/policy](http://www.asha.org/policy).**

(4) **In some states Boards for Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology may be separated.**

(5) ( ) parentheses refers to items of state discretion

## Act

## Explanation

(7) **Person** is defined as any individual, partnership, organization, or corporation, except that only individuals can be licensed under this Act.

(8) **Practice of Audiology** is defined as the application of principles, methods, and procedures related to hearing, **balance** and the disorders of hearing and to related language and speech disorders, including but not limited to, (a) facilitating the conservation of auditory system function; developing and implementing environmental and occupational hearing conservation programs; (b) screening, identifying, assessing and interpreting, diagnosing, preventing and rehabilitating peripheral and central auditory system **and balance system** disorders; (c) providing and interpreting behavior and electro-physiological measurements of auditory and vestibular functions; (d) selecting, fitting, programming and dispensing of hearing aids and cochlear implants (and other implantable devices), large area amplification systems, and other hearing assistive technologies and providing training in their use; (e) providing audiologic/**auditory** rehabilitation and related counseling services to individuals with hearing impairments and their families; (f) providing vestibular rehabilitation; (g) cerumen removal; and (h) screening of speech-language and other factors affecting communication disorders provided that judgements and descriptive statements about the results of such screenings are limited to pass/fail determinations.

(7) This model bill is intended to license individuals and is not intended to license business entities.

(8) This definition is taken from the **American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2004). *Scope of Practice in Audiology* [Scope of Practice]. Available from [www.asha.org/policy](http://www.asha.org/policy).**

(8) The aspects of speech-language pathology which may be included in the practice of audiology are based on interpretations of the Board of Ethics of the Association.

**(8) This definition reflects a Board of Ethics Issues in Ethics Statement. American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2004). *Clinical Practice by Certificate Holders in the Profession in Which They Are Not Certified* [Issues in Ethics]. Available from [www.asha.org/policy](http://www.asha.org/policy).**

(8) The practice of audiology is defined in accordance with LC 53-83 which provides that “ASHA adopt the position that state laws establishing licensure standards for audiology and speech-language pathology should provide for the licensure of all qualified individuals...” The report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Professional Autonomy, accepted by the Executive Board, states, “It is ultimately in the best interests of all consumers of audiology and speech-language pathology services and of the profession that provides those services if no exemptions are granted in licensure laws...” Therefore, the practice of audiology is defined in the broadest sense and is inclusive of the various endeavors in which members of the profession may be engaged.

(8) Terms in this definition may be clarified in the rules and regulations to delineate specific components of service delivery, e.g., screening, as an aspect of identification; counseling as an aspect of consultation; and referral and case management as aspects of habilitation and rehabilitation.

## Act

(9) **Practice of Speech-Language Pathology** is defined as the application of principles, methods and procedures related to the development, disorders and effectiveness of human communication and related functions including but not limited to providing prevention, screening, consultation, assessment/**evaluation**, diagnosis, treatment/intervention/ management, counseling, **collaboration, and referral** services for disorders of speech (i.e., **speech sound production**, fluency, resonance and voice), language (i.e., phonology, morphology, syntax, **semantics, pragmatics/social communication skills**, literacy skills), **feeding and** swallowing; and cognitive aspects of communication (i.e., attention, memory, **executive functioning**, problem solving). The practice of speech-language pathology also includes establishing augmentative and alternative communication techniques and strategies, including developing, selecting and prescribing of such systems and devices (e.g., speech generating devices); providing services to individuals with hearing loss and their families (e.g., auditory training, speech reading, speech and language intervention secondary to hearing loss); **screening individuals for hearing loss or middle ear pathology using conventional pure-tone air conduction methods (including otoscopic inspection), otoacoustic emissions screening, and/or screening tympanometry**; using instrumentation (e.g., videofluoroscopy, **endoscopy, stroboscopy**) to observe, as well as collect data and measure parameters of communication and swallowing; selecting, fitting and establishing effective use of prosthetic/adaptive devices for communication, swallowing or other upper aerodigestive functions (does not include sensory devices used by individuals with hearing loss); and providing services to modify or enhance communication performance (e.g., **accent modification, personal/professional communication efficacy**).

## Explanation

(9) **This definition is from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2007). *Scope of Practice in Speech-Language Pathology* [Scope of Practice]. Available from [www.asha.org/policy](http://www.asha.org/policy).**

(9) Terms contained in this and other definitions of the model bill can be clarified in the rules and regulations.

(9) Normal communication and its disorders form the knowledge base of the discipline. Consequently, the development of normal communication also is an integral component of this knowledge base. The term “development and disorders of communication,” therefore, appears in this definition and in the definition of speech-language pathology in most licensure laws

(9) Services provided by speech-language pathologists and audiologists are not limited to the evaluation and treatment of human communication disorders. This is supported by the inclusion of prevention in the continuum of services comprising the practices of audiology and speech-language pathology which are described in sections 1.03 (6) and (9). LC 45-81 approved the definition of prevention as it relates to communication disorders: “In a general sense, prevention of communicative disorders is defined as the elimination of those causes which interfere with the normal acquisition and development of communication skills.” The inclusion of prevention as a legitimate professional activity is justified by the fact that it is an application of principles, methods and procedures related to both development and disorders of human communication

(9) Terms in this definition may be clarified in the rules and regulations to delineate specific components of service delivery, e.g., screening as an aspect of identification; counseling as an aspect of consultation and referral; and case management as an aspect of habilitation and rehabilitation.

(9) The aspects of audiology which may be included in the practice of speech-language pathology are based on a Board of Ethics Issues

**Act**

**Explanation**

in Ethics Statement.

**American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2004). *Clinical Practice by Certificate Holders in the Profession in Which They Are Not Certified [Issues in Ethics]*. Available from [www.asha.org/policy](http://www.asha.org/policy).**

(9) The practice of speech-language pathology is defined in accordance with LC 53-83 which provides that “ASHA adopt the position that state laws establishing licensure standards for audiology and speech-language pathology should provide for the licensure of all qualified individuals...” The report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Professional Autonomy, accepted by the Executive Board, states, “It is ultimately in the best interests of all consumers of speech-language pathology and audiology services and of the profession that provides those services if no exemptions are granted in licensure laws...” Therefore, the practice of speech-language pathology is defined in the broadest sense and is inclusive of the various endeavors in which members of the profession may be engaged.

**(10) Provisional License** is defined as the license issued to an applicant who is practicing speech-language pathology while completing the supervised postgraduate professional experience after a master’s degree in speech-language pathology or **an audiologist** after completing the required coursework and a specified number of supervised clinical practicum experiences from the educational institution or its cooperating programs, in furtherance of a doctoral degree in audiology.

(10) This definition of provisional license takes into account the fact that there may be some individuals who have moved from a bachelor’s degree to a doctoral degree without a master’s degree in between. For those individuals the supervised professional experience will be completed pre-degree rather than post-degree. The content of this supervised professional experience is to be approved by the Board and further delineated in corresponding regulations.

**(11) Speech-Language Pathologist** is defined as any person who engages in the practice of speech-language pathology and who meets the qualifications set forth in this Act. A person represents himself/herself to be a speech-language pathologist when he/she holds himself/herself out to the public by any means, or by any service or function performed, directly or indirectly, or by using the terms “speech pathology,” “speech pathologist,” “speech therapy,” “speech therapist,” “speech teacher,” “speech correction,” “speech correctionist,” “speech clinic,” “speech clinician,” “language therapy,” “language therapist,” “language pathology,” “language

## Act

## Explanation

pathologist,” “**language specialist**,” “voice therapy,” “voice therapist,” “voice pathologist,” “logopedics,” “logopedist,” “communicology,” “communicologist,” “**communication specialist**,” “aphasiology,” “aphasiologist,” “phoniatriest,” or any variation, synonym, coinage or other word that expresses, employs or implies these terms, names or functions.

**(12) Speech-Language Pathology Assistant**, or any variation, synonym or coinage of the term is defined as an individual who meets minimum qualifications established by the Board; does not act independently; and works under the direction and supervision of a speech-language pathologist licensed under this Act, **in accordance with standards promulgated by the Board, and performs only those duties specified in the rules and regulations.**

**(13) Telepractice** is defined as telespeech, teleaudiology, teleSLP, or telehealth when used separately or together. Telepractice service means the application of telecommunication technology to deliver speech-language pathology and/or audiology services at a distance for assessment, intervention and/or consultation. Services delivered via telespeech and/or teleaudiology must be equivalent to the quality of services delivered face-to-face.

**(14) Endoscopy** is defined as an imaging procedure included within the scope of practice for speech-language pathologists in which a speech-language pathologist uses a flexible/nasal endoscopy, rigid/oral endoscopy, and/or stroboscopy for the purpose of evaluating and treating disorders of speech, voice, resonance, and swallowing function.

### **1.04 Audiology Assistants and Speech-Language Pathology Assistants**

(1) Audiologists and speech-language pathologists supervising audiology assistants or speech-language pathology assistants shall:

- (a) Register with the Board the name of each assistant working under their

**(12) Many terms can be used to designate individuals who provide support services in speech-language pathology. The term, “assistant,” is used in the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2004). *Guidelines for the Training, Use, and Supervision of Speech-Language Pathology Assistants* [Guidelines]. Available from [www.asha.org/policy](http://www.asha.org/policy).**

**(13) This definition was adapted from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (2005). *Speech-Language Pathologists Providing Clinical Services via Telepractice: Position Statement*. Available from <http://www.asha.org/docs/html/PS2005-00116.html> and ASHA’s Model Regulations for Telepractice. Available from [www.asha.org/uploadedFiles/ModRegTelepractice.pdf](http://www.asha.org/uploadedFiles/ModRegTelepractice.pdf)**

**(14) This definition was taken from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2008). *Use of Endoscopy by Speech-Language Pathologists: Position Statement* [Position Statement]. Available from [www.asha.org/policy](http://www.asha.org/policy).**

**Act**

**Explanation**

supervision;  
 (b) Be responsible for the extent, kind, and quality of service provided by the assistant, consistent with the Board’s designated standards and requirements; and  
 (c) Ensure that persons receiving services from an assistant receive prior written notification that services are to be provided, in whole or in part, by an audiology assistant or a speech-language pathology assistant.

**1.05 Persons and Practices Affected**

(1) Licensure shall be granted either in audiology or speech-language pathology independently. A person may be licensed in both areas if that person meets the respective qualifications. No person shall practice audiology or speech-language pathology or represent himself/herself as an audiologist or speech-language pathologist in this state, unless such person is licensed in accordance with this Act.

**(2) On or after [date], an individual hired by a public school system, State approved nonpublic school for children with disabilities, or chartered educational institution of the State or the State Department of Education to practice speech-language pathology shall be licensed in accordance with this Act.**

**(3) On [date], an individual employed by a public school system, State approved nonpublic school for children with disabilities, or chartered educational institution of the State or the State Department of Education to practice speech-language pathology who does not otherwise meet the qualifications set forth in this Act, may be licensed to practice speech-language pathology as long as they are practicing continuously on and after [date] while performing the duties of that employment.**

**1.05 Persons and Practices Affected**

(1) Services and activities delineated in 1.03(8) and 1.03(9) constitute the scope of practice of audiology and the scope of practice of speech-language pathology, respectively. Licensure is considered to be the most restrictive form of professional regulation because it generally limits both title use and scope of practice

Explanation: The intention of the last sentence is to require all persons providing audiology/speech-language pathology services, regardless of setting, to be licensed. It is one form of a standard legal provision that is typically used in legislation of this type and appears in most licensure laws for audiology and speech-language pathology. It means that it is unlawful for a person not licensed under this Act to conduct activities or provide services that comprise audiology or speech-language pathology, regardless of the way the person represents him/herself or the title(s) he/she uses. The provision also means that it is unlawful for a person not licensed under this law to use any of the titles prohibited by the law, regardless of the services being provided or activities conducted by the unlicensed person. Therefore, the conjunction “or” makes the prohibition doubly limiting in that illegal practice and illegal title use do not have to occur concomitantly; the presence of one or the other is sufficient to be considered unlawful. However, interpretations regarding the use of “and” or “or” may be state specific.

This has the same effect of prohibiting title use by unlicensed persons but not practice.

**Act**

**Explanation**

**1.06 Persons and Practices Not Affected**

Nothing in this Act shall be construed as preventing or restricting:

(1) A person licensed, certified, registered, or otherwise credentialed by this State in professions other than audiology and speech-language pathology, **including a person licensed in the practice of medicine or osteopathic medicine and surgery**, from practicing the profession for which he/she is licensed, certified, registered or credentialed.

(2) A person duly credentialed by this state as a teacher of the deaf.

(3) The activities and services of persons pursuing a course of study leading to a degree in audiology or speech-language pathology at a college or university provided that:

(a) These activities and services constitute a part of a planned course of study at that institution;

(b) Such persons are designated by a title such as intern, trainee, student, or by other such title clearly indicating the status appropriate to their level of education; and

(c) Such persons work under the supervision of a person licensed by this state to practice audiology or speech-language pathology

(4) The activities of persons who are nonresidents of this state from engaging in the practice of audiology or speech-language pathology as long as the activities of such persons do not exceed five days in any calendar

**1.06 Persons and Practices Not Affected**

(1) The terms used in this provision, licensed, certified, registered, or otherwise credentialed, are not intended to include persons practicing audiology or speech-language pathology. Attempts may be made to classify individuals providing audiology or speech-language pathology services under an alternative occupation, such as special education instructor. The intent of an effective licensure or registration requirement is to guarantee that the public receives services from appropriately qualified personnel. This goal is subverted when states do not apply licensure or registration requirements which are appropriate to the services provided.

(1) The scope of practice for one profession does not necessarily restrict the practice of other professionals who may perform the same or similar services under the scope of practice authorized under their own practice act. For example, while section 1.03(8) authorizes audiologists to dispense amplification devices and remove cerumen, hearing aid dealers and physicians, respectively, can also provide such services under their practice acts.

(4) While most licensure laws have generous provisions for temporary practice by qualified nonresidents, initial comments to the model bill were highly supportive in suggesting that such provisions were not in the best interest of the

**Act**

**Explanation**

year and provided that:

- (a) Such persons meet the qualifications of this Act;
- (b) Such persons register with the Board in accordance with procedures specified in the rules and regulations; and
- (c) Agree to abide by the standards of professional conduct contained in this Act and rules and regulations.

**(5) The activities of a licensed hearing aid dealer. Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to limit or otherwise affect the practice of selling and fitting hearing aids.**

**(6) The performing of routine hearing screening, limited to a pass/fail determination, for the purpose of identifying and referring individuals suspected of having hearing disorders.**

**1.07 Fitting and Dispensing of Hearing Aids**

(1) A person who meets the requirements of this Act for licensure as an audiologist who fits and dispenses hearing aids must:

- (a) Register with the Board of Examiners for Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology the individual’s intent to fit and dispense hearing aids;
- (b) Adhere to the professions code of ethics;
- (c) Comply with federal, state and local laws and regulations;
- (d) Provide a written contract for services that contains the name, mailing address, and telephone number of the board;
- (e) Follow guidelines for either a 30-day or 45-day trial on every hearing aid purchase.

(2) If audiometric testing is not conducted in a stationary acoustical enclosure, sound level measurements must be conducted at the time of the testing to ensure that ambient noises levels meet permissible standards for testing threshold to 20 dB based on the most recent American National Standards Institute “ears covered” octave band criteria for permissible ambient noise levels during audiometric testing. A dB equivalent level may be used to determine compliance. The board shall adopt rules necessary to enforce this subsection.

public and that the ASHA model bill should not reflect current practice. The dilemma is to find a solution that enables the licensure board to monitor practice without imposing unnecessary requirements on persons engaging in short-term or temporary practice.

**1.07 Fitting and Dispensing of Hearing Aids**

LC 24-78 established ASHA policy to foster the legal right of audiologists to dispense hearing aids under that licensing or registration authority which controls audiological rehabilitation activities. **As of August 2010, there are 35 states that allow audiologists to dispense hearing aids under an audiology license.**

The practice of audiology includes selecting, fitting, programming and dispensing of amplification, assistive listening and alertive devices and other systems (e.g., implantable devices) and providing training in their use. **(American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2004). *Scope of Practice in Audiology* [Scope of Practice]. Available from [www.asha.org/policy](http://www.asha.org/policy).)**

This section was expanded to include additional regulations. For example, the restrictions on advertising and door-to-door sales are found in regulations promulgated by the Federal Trade Commission and state law.

**As of January 2010, 31 states and the District of Columbia impose a mandatory trial period for hearing aids.**

Product Dispensing, states that dispensing by audiologists is limited to products related to hearing, e.g., hearing aids, assistive listening systems/devices, sensory aids. **(American**

**Act**

**Explanation**

**Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2006). *Preferred Practice Patterns for the Profession of Audiology* [Preferred Practice Patterns]. Available from [www.asha.org/policy](http://www.asha.org/policy).)**

**1.08 Assessing, Selecting, Developing, and Fitting Products Related to Speech, Language and Swallowing**

A person who meets the requirements of this Act for licensure as a speech-language pathologist, who assesses, selects, develops and fits products related to speech, language or swallowing, must:

- (a.) Register with the Board of Examiners for Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology the individual's intent to assess, select, develop and fit products related to speech, language and swallowing;
- (b.) Adhere to the profession's code of ethics;
- (c.) Comply with federal, state and local laws and regulations;
- (d.) Provide a written contract for services that contains the name, mailing address, and telephone number of the board.

**1.09 Use of Endoscopy in Speech-Language Pathology**

A person who meets the requirement of this Act for licensure as a speech-language pathologist may perform assessment, treatment, and procedures related to speech, voice, resonance, and swallowing function using non-medical endoscopy.

A licensed speech-language pathologist shall not perform an endoscopic procedure unless he or she has received training and is competent to perform these procedures.

A licensed speech-language pathologist must have protocols in place for emergency medical backup when performing procedures using an endoscope.

**1.10 Use of Telepractice in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology services**

**1.09 State language on the performance of non-medical endoscopy varies. The model language used here is based on ASHA's official position that endoscopy may be utilized by speech-language pathologists to evaluate swallowing function and that medical personnel should be available in case of emergency. (American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2005). *The Role of the Speech-Language Pathologist in the Performance and Interpretation of Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing: Position Statement* [Position Statement]. Available from [www.asha.org/policy](http://www.asha.org/policy).)**

**1.10 ASHA defines telepractice as the application of telecommunications technology to delivery of professional services at a**

<b>Act</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
<p>(1) <b>An individual licensed by this Act may provide speech-language pathology or audiology services via telepractice.</b></p>	<p>distance by linking clinician to client, or clinician to clinician, for assessment, intervention, and/or consultation. ASHA's position is that telepractice is an appropriate model of service delivery for the professions of speech-language pathology [and audiology]. Telepractice may be used to overcome barriers of access to services caused by distance, unavailability of specialists and/or subspecialists, and impaired mobility.</p>
<p>(2) <b>An individual licensed as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist in another state may not engage in the practice of speech language pathology or audiology across state lines, hold himself or herself out as qualified to do the same, or use any title, word, or abbreviation to indicate to or induce others to believe that he or she is licensed to practice speech language pathology or audiology across state lines unless he or she has been issued a limited license in this state to practice telepractice in accordance with this Act.</b></p>	<p>Some states may not have enabling language in their statute to allow them to adopt a limited license provision. Those states would require a statutory change.</p>
<p>(3) <b>An individual must hold a full license in another state in order to be eligible for a limited license.</b></p>	

## **Article 2. Administration**

### **2.01 Board of Examiners for Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology**

(1) There is hereby created a Board of Examiners for Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology under the jurisdiction of the Department.

(2) The Board shall consist of nine members who are appointed by the Governor, are residents of this state, and have been residents of this state for at least one year prior to their appointments.

### **2.02 Composition**

(1) The Board shall consist of three audiologists who are currently practicing audiology and who have had five years

### **2.01 Board of Examiners for Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology**

(1) & (2) Since the model bill specifically identifies audiologists who dispense hearing aids and speech-language pathologists who assess, select, develop and fit products related to speech, language and swallowing, states may want to specify that the composition of the board include an audiologist who dispenses hearing aids and a speech-language pathologist who provides products related to speech, language and swallowing. Additionally, some states may want to ensure that at least one school-based practitioner is on the board.

(2) An odd number of members are suggested. However, Board size may be dictated by the administrative policy of each state for Board size and/or by the number of licensees who will be licensed under the Act.

### **2.02 Composition**

**Act**

**Explanation**

experience practicing audiology and who hold active and valid licensure for the practice of audiology in this state, except for the first audiologists appointed who shall meet the eligibility requirements for licensure as specified in this Act.

(2) The Board shall consist of three speech-language pathologists who are currently practicing speech-language pathology and who have had **five years experience** practicing speech-language pathology and who hold active and valid licensure for the practice of speech-language pathology in this state, except for the first speech-language pathologists appointed who shall meet the eligibility requirements for licensure as specified in this Act.

(3) The Board shall consist of three representatives of the public who do not have a financial interest in the practice or business of audiology or speech-language pathology.

**2.03 Appointments**

(1) Within ( ) days after enactment of this Bill, the first Board shall be appointed by the Governor from a list of names of at least ten audiologists, ten speech-language pathologists, and ten public representatives submitted by the State Speech-Language Hearing Association.

(2) Each subsequent appointment may be made from recommendations submitted by the State Speech-Language Hearing Association which may submit at least three names per appointment or from recommendations submitted by other interested organizations or persons in the state. No member of the Board shall at the same time serve in an elected, appointed or employed position in any national, state or local-level organization representing audiologists and speech-language pathologists, which presents or may present a conflict of interest situation.

**2.04 Terms**

(1) Appointments to the Board shall be for a period of three years except for the initial appointments which shall be of staggered terms. Members shall serve until the expiration of the term for which they have been appointed or until their successors have been appointed

(3) The number of consumer members on the board may be dictated by state administrative policy and/or the number of persons licensed by the Act. **This number should be adjusted to ensure an odd number of members to the board.**

**2.03 Appointments**

(1) State administrative policy may specify the nomination procedures to be followed in suggesting persons for Board appointments. Some states may prohibit organizations, including professional associations, from submitting nominations.

(2) State administrative policy may determine appointment procedures.

**2.04 Terms**

(1) This provision includes the qualification process involved in selecting board members. Without it, a board may lose board member representation if a replacement member is

**Act**

**Explanation**

and are deemed to be qualified to serve on the board. In the event of a vacancy in the office of a member of the Board other than by expiration of a term, the Governor shall appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term. No member may serve more than two consecutive three year terms.

appointed but is not qualified to serve on the board.

(2) The Governor may remove any member of the Board for unprofessional conduct, incompetence or neglect of duty.

(2) State administrative policy may determine termination procedures. Some states may choose or be required to specify that failure to attend a specified number of board meetings is considered neglect of duty.

**2.05 Meetings**

**2.05 Meetings**

(1) The Board shall meet during the first month of each calendar or fiscal year to select a chairperson and vice chairman and to conduct other appropriate business. At least ( ) additional meetings shall be held before the end of each calendar or fiscal year. In order for the Board to conduct its business in a timely manner, further meetings may be convened at the call of the chairperson or at the request of two or more board members. The Board shall conduct its meetings and keep records of its proceedings in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act of this state.

(1) Some states may require the governor to appoint the chair and vice chair. Although it may not be necessary to select a vice-chair, a provision must be made in law or rules for the conduct of meetings in the absence of the chair. It also may be advisable to allow board members to call meetings to avoid situations where a board chairman refuses to call a meeting to discuss a controversial topic.

(1) If no state-defined procedures exist for conducting meetings or recording meeting proceedings, such information should be specified in the rules and regulations.

(1) Liaison with licensees and with the state association regarding Board proceedings, although not specified in the model bill is encouraged.

(2) Six members of the Board shall constitute a quorum to do business, provided that the majority of members present are audiologists or speech-language pathologists and that at least one audiologist, one speech-language pathologist and one public representative are present.

(2) State administrative policy may specify how a quorum is to be determined.

**2.06 Compensation**

**2.06 Compensation**

Members of the Board shall receive monetary remuneration and reimbursement of expenses consistent with state administrative policy.

The parameters for compensation of Board members generally are specified in state administrative policy. Financial remuneration may be in the form of hourly compensation or per diem allowance and also may include compensation for subsistence and travel.

**Act**

**Explanation**

**2.07 Powers and Duties of the Board**

**2.07 Powers and Duties of the Board**

- (1) The Board shall:
- (a) Administer, coordinate and enforce the provisions of this Act, establish licensure fees, evaluate the qualifications of applicants, supervise the examination of applicants and issue and renew licenses;
  - (b) Issue subpoenas, examine witnesses, administer oaths, conduct hearings and, at its discretion, investigate allegations of violations of this Act and impose penalties if such violations of this Act have occurred;
  - (c) Adopt responsible rules and regulations subject to the approval of the responsible agency including but not limited to regulations that delineate qualifications for licensure; specify requirements for the renewal of licensure; promulgate rules and regulations relative to the delivery of services via telepractice; establish standards of professional conduct; and any other rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act; and to amend or repeal the same. Following their adoption, the rules and regulations shall govern and control the professional conduct of every person who holds a license to practice audiology or speech-language pathology in this state;
  - (d) Have available the names and addresses of persons currently licensed and registered under the provision of this Act;
  - (e) Employ such personnel as determined by its needs and budget;
  - (f) Request legal advice and assistance, as needed, from the Attorney General's office or other appropriate state legal officer;
  - (g) Enter into such contracts as necessary to carry out its responsibilities under this Act;
  - (h) Hire legal counsel, if deemed necessary;
  - (i) Establish a budget;
  - (j) Submit reports of its operations and finances as requested by the (supervising agency);
  - (k) Adopt an official seal by which it shall authenticate its proceedings, copies or proceedings, records, acts of the Board, and licensees;
  - (l) Communicate disciplinary actions to

The powers and duties of state regulatory boards, including enforcement responsibilities, may be specified by state administrative policy.

(1)(c) Standards of professional conduct are to be included in the rules and regulations and may include standards of ethical conduct identical or similar to ASHA's Code of Ethics; standards of care; and standards for the retention of records.

(1)(d) Some states do not release the names and addresses of licensees to the public.

(1l) States with privacy laws may have limited

**Act**

**Explanation**

relevant state and federal authorities and to other state speech-language pathology and audiology licensing authorities.

disclosure authority. Specific language may be needed to amend the privacy law to facilitate the disclosure of additional information to other state or national authorities.

(2) The conferral or enumeration of specific powers elsewhere in this Act shall not be construed as a limitation of the general functions conferred by this section.

(3) No member of the Board shall be liable for civil action for any act performed in good faith in the performance of his/her duties as prescribed by law.

**2.08 Disposition of Funds**

**2.08 Disposition of Funds**

(1) Upon enactment of this Act, the State is hereby authorized to establish and maintain a continuous, non-lapsing fund in accordance with (cite state law) to be known as the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Licensing Fund. This fund is created for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act.

(1) The creation of a revolving fund may require specific language as determined by each individual state. Without specific language, funds may be automatically deposited into the state’s general fund.

(2) Each month the Board shall report to the state (appropriate official) the amount and source of all revenue received by it pursuant to this Act during the previous month and shall at that time pay the entire amount into the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Licensing Fund.

(3) The Board shall be financed from income accruing to it from fees, licenses, and other charges and funds collected by the Board, as well as monies appropriated by the state to establish and maintain the Board and its operations. **The board shall retain all fees and other monies received by it for deposit into the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Licensing Fund. Such funds may be expended by the board without appropriation for costs of administration and other expenses. Additionally, such funds may be used for the establishment and operation of continuing education programs relating to speech, language, or hearing disorders. Any funds remaining unexpended and unencumbered at the end of each fiscal year shall be retained by the board for expenditure in succeeding years and no part thereof shall revert to the general fund of the state. All civil monetary penalties collected for the violation of any provisions of this Act or its rules and regulations shall be paid to the state’s general fund.**

**Act**

**Explanation**

(4) All employee salaries and other expenses shall be paid as budgeted after budgets are approved by the Comptroller (or appropriate official) or within the limitations of any appropriation or funds available for that purpose. All appropriate expenses incurred by the Board in the administration of the provisions of this Act shall be paid by the Comptroller (or appropriate official) when vouchers relating to such expenses are exhibited as having been approved by the Board.

(4) Civil monetary penalties should be deposited into the state’s general fund to avoid giving the board the opportunity to finance its activities through its civil penalties. Criminal penalties are generally assessed by the courts and are deposited into the general fund.

**Article 3. Licenses**

**3.01 Qualifications**

(1) To be eligible for licensure by the Board as an audiologist, the applicant shall:

- (a) Make application to the Board, upon such a form prescribed by the Board;
- (b) Pay to the Board the appropriate application fee;
- (c) Possess a doctoral degree with an emphasis in audiology from a program accredited by the accrediting agency of the American Speech-Language Hearing Association;

(d) Complete supervised clinical practicum experiences from an educational institution or its cooperating programs;

- (e) Complete a supervised professional experience during the completion of a doctoral degree in audiology;
- (f) Pass **the Praxis II** examination in audiology, **or its successor**;
- (g) Have committed no acts described in section 4.02 for which disciplinary action

**3.01 Qualifications**

(1)(c) This requirement reflects a shift in the profession toward doctoral entry into the field of audiology. For the ASHA CCC, from January 1,2007 through January 1, 2012, a transitional standard will be required which consists of 75 semester credit hours of post-baccalaureate study that culminates in a doctoral or other recognized degree. The ASHA CCC will require a doctoral degree beginning in 2012.

(1)(d) The National Examination in Audiology and the National Examination in Speech-Language Pathology are used by ASHA to satisfy the examination requirement for the Certificates of Clinical Competence and by all currently existing licensure boards to satisfy the examination requirement for state licensure. The National Examinations are administered by the Educational Testing Service of Princeton, New Jersey.

(1)(e) When an individual moves from a bachelor’s degree to a doctoral degree without a master’s degree in between, the clinical fellowship is completed pre-degree rather than post-degree.

**Act**

**Explanation**

- may be justified.
- (2) To be eligible for licensure by the Board as a speech-language pathologist, the applicant shall:
- (a) Make application to the Board, upon such a form prescribed by the Board;
  - (b) Pay to the Board the appropriate application fee;
  - (c) Possess a master’s or doctoral degree from an educational institution accredited by the accrediting agency of the American Speech-Language Hearing Association and from an educational institution approved by the state
  - (d) Complete supervised clinical practicum experiences from an educational institution or its cooperating programs, the content of which shall be approved by the Board and delineated in the rules and regulations;
  - (e) Complete a supervised postgraduate professional experience
  - (f) Pass **the Praxis II** examination in speech-language pathology, **or its successor**
  - (g) Have committed no acts described in section 4.02 for which disciplinary action may be justified.

**3.02 Waiver of Requirements**

- (1) The Board may waive the education, practicum and professional experience requirements for applicants who
- (a) Provide proof of employment in the practice of audiology or speech-language pathology in this state on the effective date of this Act;
  - (b) Pass an examination, if requested by the Board; and
  - (c) Apply for a license in audiology or speech-language pathology within one year after the effective date of this Act, providing that the provisions of clause (1) of this section shall have no further force and effect after (date).

**3.02 Waiver of Requirements**

- (1)(a) Some states may wish to adopt a more stringent “grandparent” policy and waive requirements for persons who can demonstrate employment of a longer duration, such as “3 years out of the 5 years immediately preceding the effective date of this Act,” rather than the more generous employment requirement, “...on the effective date of this Act.,” which is included in this document.
- (1)(b) This requirement gives the Board the discretion to require an examination, if it deems necessary, after reviewing the credentials of an applicant requesting to be “grandparented.”
- (1)(c) The grandparenting provision should be sunsetted after a reasonable time has elapsed.

**Act**

**Explanation**

(2) The Board may, at its discretion, waive the education, practicum and professional experience requirements for applicants who:

- (a) Received their professional education in another country provided that the Board is satisfied that equivalent education and practicum requirements have been met; and
- (b) Meet the examination requirement of section 3.01(1)(f) or 3.02(2)(f).

(2) Some states may not want to waive the professional experience requirement, but rather, may wish to leave the imposition of this requirement to the Board's discretion.

(3) The Board shall waive the qualifications in 3.01 (1)(c) and (d) and 3.01(2)(c), (d), (e), and (f) for applicants who:

- (a) Present proof of current licensure in a state that has standards that are at least equivalent to those of this state; or
- (b) Hold a current Certificate of Clinical Competence in Audiology or Speech-Language Pathology from the American Speech-Language Hearing Association in the area for which they are applying for licensure.

(4) Persons who hold current licensure from another state with equivalent standards or who hold the Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech-Language Hearing Association are permitted to practice audiology or speech-language pathology in this state, pending Board disposition of their applications, provided that:

(4) Some states may object to allowing any persons to practice until the Board has processed their applications, decided on their ability to meet licensure standards, and granted licensure.

- (a) They are practicing in the area, audiology or speech-language pathology, in which their licensure or Certificate of Clinical Competence was granted;
- (b) They have filed an application with the Board and paid the appropriate application fee; and
- (c) They have not committed any of the act described in section 4.02 for which disciplinary action may be justified.

**3.03 Provisional License**

(1) The Board shall issue a provisional license in speech-language pathology to an applicant who:

- (a) Except for the postgraduate professional experience, meets the academic, practicum, and examination requirements of this Act;
- (b) Submits an application to the Board, upon a form prescribed by the Board, including a plan for the content of the postgraduate professional experience;

**Act**

**Explanation**

- (c) Pays to the Board the appropriate application fee for a provisional license; and
- (d) Has not committed any of the acts described in section 4.02 for which disciplinary action may be justified.
- (2)** The purpose of a provisional license is to permit an individual to practice speech-language pathology while completing postgraduate professional experience in speech-language pathology as required by this Act. A person holding a provisional license is authorized to practice speech-language pathology only while working under the supervision of a person fully licensed by this state in accordance with this Act.
- (3)** The term for provisional licenses and the conditions for their renewal are to be determined by the Board and delineated in the rules and regulations.

**3.04 Limited License for Telepractice**

**(1) Upon completed application including all required documentation, verification of licensure or certification and payment of fees, the Board may issue a limited license for interstate telepractice, if the following conditions are met:**

- (a) The speech language pathologist or audiologist is actively licensed or certified to practice without restriction in the state from which the speech language pathologist or audiologist provides telepractice services;**
- (b) The speech language pathologist or audiologist has not had a license to practice speech language pathology or audiology revoked or restricted in any state or jurisdiction;**
- (c) In the event of a previous disciplinary action against the applicant, the board may issue a limited license to practice across state lines if it finds that the previous disciplinary action does not indicate that the speech language pathologist or audiologist is a potential threat to the public.**
- (d) The speech language pathologist or audiologist does not have an office in**

**3.04A limited license for telepractice is included to ensure that any provider outside of the state who provides services inside the state have the education and qualifications to do so.**

**Some states may not have enabling language in their statute to allow them to adopt a limited license provision. Those states would require a statutory change.**

**Act**

**Explanation**

**this state and does not provide service in the physical presence of a client in this state.**

- (e) The speech language pathologist or audiologist agrees to be subject to the state laws, the state judicial system and the Board with respect to providing speech language pathology or audiology services to this state’s residents.**
- (f) Telepractitioners shall comply with all laws, rules and regulations governing the maintenance of client records, including client confidentiality requirements, regardless of the state where the records of any client within this state are maintained.**

**3.05 License Renewal**

(1) Licenses issued under this Act shall expire at a time specified by the Board. Every person licensed under this Act shall:

- (a) Pay an amount established by the Board in order for his/her license to be renewed;
- (b) Submit an application for renewal on a form prescribed by the Board; and
- (c) Complete 30 contact hours or three CEUs of continuing education per three-year renewal period
  - (i) CEUs or contact hours may be earned from the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) and ASHA approved providers, the state speech-language hearing association as well as additional providers approved by the Board;

**3.05 License Renewal**

(1)(c) Currently, the vast majority of public and private credentialing bodies which intend to ensure continuing competence have continuing education requirements. In 1979, ASHA’s Code of Ethics was amended to include under Principle of Ethics II, Rule of Ethics C., “Individuals shall continue their professional development throughout their careers.” ASHA’s Council for Clinical Certification reiterated the importance of continuing professional development for maintenance of the ASHA certificates of clinical competence by implementing new requirements for continuing professional development for the CCC-A beginning in 2003 and the CCC-SLP beginning in 2005.

Some states consider continuing education to be

## Act

## Explanation

	<p>a reasonable expectation and a legitimate demonstration of concern for consumer protection as evidenced by the fact that approximately 80% of the audiology and speech-language pathology licensure boards have continuing education requirements. Other state governments are opposed to continuing education requirements because of the expense and time involved in enforcing them.</p> <p>The exact details of the continuing competency requirements are typically delineated in the rules and regulations because of the difficulty in changing the law via the legislature if changes in the requirements are desired at a later date.</p> <p>(1)(c) The board should determine the number of continuing education hours or units that should be earned during the renewal period. Typically, a high percentage (50-100%) of the hours should be directly related to clinical practice and patient/client care.</p> <p>(1)(c) Each board should decide the criteria and content that a provider should adhere to in order for that organization's courses to be accepted for licensure renewal. Some boards have provider approval processes. Other boards approve individual courses offered by providers. Most boards recognize the established approval processes of such organizations as the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA).</p>
<p>(d) Meet any other requirements the Board establishes as conditions for license renewal.</p> <p>(2) Licensees are granted a grace period of 30 days after the expiration of their licenses in which to renew retroactively if they meet statutory requirements for renewal fee and any late fee set by the Board.</p> <p>(3) A suspended license is subject to expiration and may be renewed as provided in this Act, but such renewal shall not entitle the licensee, while the license remains suspended and until it is reinstated, to engage in the licensed activity, or any other conduct or activity in violation of the order of judgment by which the license was suspended.</p> <p>(4) A license revoked on disciplinary grounds is subject to expiration as provided in this Act, but it may not be renewed. If such license is reinstated after its expiration, the licensee as a condition of reinstatement shall meet license requirements for new licensees and shall pay a reinstatement fee that shall equal the renewal fee in effect on the last regular renewal date</p>	

**Act**

**Explanation**

immediately preceding the date of reinstatement, plus any additional fees set by the Board.

**3.06 Reinstatement of Expired Licenses**

(1) Persons who fail to renew their licenses by the end of the 30-day grace period may have their licenses reinstated as long as they:

- (a) Submit an application for reinstatement to the Board within ( ) years after the expiration date of the license;
- (b) Provide documentation of having completed the continuing education requirements for the period in which the license has lapsed; and
- (c) Pay to the Board a reinstatement fee that shall equal the renewal fee in effect on the last regular renewal date immediately preceding the date of reinstatement, plus any late fee set by the Board.

(2) Persons who fail to renew their licenses within 5 years after the expiration date may not have their licenses renewed, and they may not be restored, reissued, or reinstated thereafter, although such persons may apply for and obtain a new license if they meet the requirements of this Act **at the time of renewal** and pay to the Board the appropriate fee.

**3.07 Inactive License**

The Board may adopt rules permitting inactive licensure. The rules shall specify the requirements and procedures for placing a license on inactive status, the length a license may remain on inactive status and the requirements and procedures to activate an inactive license. Except as otherwise specified by rule, an inactive license has no right or privilege to engage in the practice of audiology or speech-language pathology.

**3.08 Reinstatement of Revoked License**  
**The Board may adopt rules permitting the reinstatement of a revoked license. The rules shall specify the requirements and procedures for reinstating a license.**

**3.06 Reinstatement of Expired Licenses**

The reinstatement of expired licenses can be a difficult procedure to implement because of the various circumstances presented by persons requesting reinstatement. The specific procedures and requirements for reinstatement should be clearly delineated in the rules and regulations.

**3.07 Inactive License**

Some states may wish to allow licensees to place their license on inactive status. Essentially, this means that a licensee has agreed not to practice but wishes to maintain licensure so that they may return to practice in the future. Typically, the fees associated with an inactive license are substantially lower than those for an active license. Usually, if a license is not reactivated within a certain time frame (i.e. five to eight years), a new application for licensure must be made.

States that require licensees to demonstrate

**Act**

**Explanation**

**3.09 Reciprocity**

**The Board, subject to the provisions of this chapter and the rules and regulations of the Board promulgated thereunder prescribing the qualifications of a speech-language pathologist and/or audiologist, may permit, at its discretion any person who has successfully complied with the requirements of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), and is a holder of a Certificate of Clinical Competence in speech-language pathology or audiology, and who holds a current license in another state in speech-language pathology or audiology may be granted a license according to the following conditions:**

- (a) That the other state maintains a system and standard of qualifications and examinations for speech-language pathologists or audiologists which meet or exceed the current requirements for licensure in this state.**
- (b) Payment of the current fee established by the Board for other licensees.**
- (c) Submission of evidence satisfactory to the Board, i.e., proof of current out-of-state license.**

**3.10 Internationally Educated Applicants**

**The Board may grant a license to practice speech-language pathology or audiology to an applicant who completed an educational program in a college or university in another country if the applicant submits one of the following:**

- (a) Proof satisfactory to the Board that the applicant has received a Master's degree or higher for speech-language pathology or a Doctoral degree for audiology from a international institution which was accredited, at the time the degree was conferred, by an accrediting body recognized by the national government of the country in which the institution is located; or**

continuing competence for license renewal may elect to impose a similar requirement on persons who elect an inactive status for their license. To reactivate an inactive license, a licensee would have to meet the same continuing competence requirements as persons who maintained current licensure.

**3.09 ASHA's Certificate of Clinical Competence is recognized in 34 states for the purposes of reciprocity or interim practice and, for that reason, may aid the practitioner who moves or wishes to work in another state. In recognizing the CCC for the purposes of reciprocity or interim practice, states appreciate the scientific validity and high standards of the credential.**

**Act**

**Explanation**

- (b) A certification from a private education evaluation service approved by the Board that the applicant's international education is equivalent to the education provided by an accredited program; or**
- (c) A certification from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, or its successor organization.**

**Article 4. Disciplinary Actions**

**4.01 Penalties**

(1) The Board may impose separately, or in combination, any of the following disciplinary actions on a licensee after formal or informal disciplinary action as provided in this Act:

- (a) Refuse to issue or renew a license;
- (b) Issue a letter of reprimand or concern;
- (c) Require restitution of fees;
- (d) Impose probationary conditions;
- (e) Impose a fine not to exceed ( \$ ), either total or per violation;
- (f) Require the licensee to reimburse the board for costs of the investigation and proceeding;
- (g) Suspend or revoke a license;
- (h) Impose practice and/or supervision requirements;
- (i) Require licensees to attend continuing education programs specified by the Board as to content and hours;
- (j) Impose other disciplines as deemed appropriate by the Board.

(2) If the Board imposes suspension or revocation of license, application may be made to the Board for reinstatement, subject to the limits of section 3.05(3). The Board shall have discretion to accept or reject an application for reinstatement and may require an examination for reinstatement.

(3) If a licensee is placed on probation, the Board may require the license holder to:

- (a) Report regularly to the Board on matters that are the basis of probation;
- (b) Limit practice to the areas prescribed by the Board; or
- (c) Continue or review continuing education until the license holder attains a degree of skill satisfactory to the Board in those areas that are the basis of the

**4.01 Penalties**

Provisions pertaining to disciplinary action are usually subject to the administrative policy governing the professional licensure boards in each state. Consequently, such provisions generally must adhere to a certain format and include specific content.

Because licensure laws differ across states, it is impossible to list all potential grounds for disciplinary action. The listing in the model bill of unlawful or unprofessional acts was selected from various licensure laws and is representative of the “typical grounds” for discipline cited by Randolph Reeves in The Law of Professional Regulation and Certification. Because of each state’s idiosyncrasies, the administrative policy of each state should be consulted to determine the required content or format, if any, for the law and items which may or should be included in rules and regulations.

**Act**

**Explanation**

probation.

**4.02 Grounds**

(1) Disciplinary actions may be taken by the Board for conduct that may result from but not necessarily by limited to:

- (a) Fraudulently or deceptively obtaining or attempting to obtain a license or a provisional license for the applicant, licensee, holder or for another;
- (b) Fraudulently or deceptively using a license or provisional license;
- (c) Altering a license or provisional license;
- (d) Aiding or abetting unlicensed practice;
- (e) Selling, bartering, or offering to sell or barter a license or provisional license;
- (f) Committing fraud or deceit in the practice of audiology or speech-language pathology, including but not limited to:
  - (1) Willfully making or filing a false report or record in the practice of audiology or speech-language pathology;
  - (2) Submitting a false statement to collect a fee;
  - (3) Obtaining a fee through fraud or misrepresentation;
- (g) Using or promoting or causing the use of any misleading, deceiving, improbable, or untruthful advertising matter, promotional literature, testimonial, guarantee, warranty, label, brand insignia or any other representation;
- (h) Falsely representing the use or availability of services or advice of a physician;
- (i) Misrepresenting the applicant, licensee, or holder by using the word “doctor” or any similar word, abbreviation, or symbol if the use is not accurate or if the degree was not obtained from a regionally accredited institution;
- (j) Committing any act of dishonesty, immoral or unprofessional conduct while engaging in the practice of audiology or speech-language pathology;
- (k) Engaging in illegal or incompetent or negligent practice;
- (l) Providing professional services while:
  - (1) Mentally incompetent;
  - (2) Under the influence of alcohol;

**4.02 Grounds**

## Act

## Explanation

- (3) Using any narcotic or controlled dangerous substance or other drug that is in excess of therapeutic amounts or without valid medical indication.
- (m) Providing services or promoting the sale of devices, appliances or products to a person who cannot reasonably be expected to benefit from such services, devices, appliances or products;
- (n) Violating any provision of this Act, any lawful order given or rule or regulation adopted by the Board;
- (o) Being convicted or pleading guilty or nolo contendere to a felony or to a crime involving moral turpitude, whether or not any appeal or other proceeding is pending to have the conviction or plead set aside;
- (p) Being disciplined by a licensing or disciplinary authority of any other state, country or nationally recognized professional organizations or convicted or disciplined by a court of any state or country for an act that would be grounds for disciplinary action under this section;
- (q) Exploits a patient for financial gain or sexual favors;
- (r) Failing to report suspected cases of child abuse or vulnerable adult abuse in accordance with state law;
- (s) Diagnosing or treating individuals for speech or hearing disorders by mail or telephone unless the individual has been previously examined by the licensee and the diagnosis or treatment is related to such examination; or
- (t) Violating federal, state or local laws relating to the profession;
- (2) The Board shall adopt by rule a schedule of sanctions to be imposed as the result of formal or informal disciplinary activities conducted by the Board.

### **4.03 Complaint Procedure in General**

- (1) The Board shall keep an information file about each complaint filed with the board. The information in each complaint file shall contain complete, current and accurate information including, but not limited to:
- (a) all persons contacted in relation to the complaint;
- (b) a summary of findings made at each step of the complaint process;

(11) Standards of professional conduct should be included in the rules and regulations and may include standards of ethical conduct, standards of care, and standards for record retention

(q) Licensing statutes for most professions now have prohibitions on sexual or other abuse of patients.

(r) Nearly all states now have child and vulnerable adult abuse statutes. This language merely codifies language included in those statutes and puts practitioners on notice.

**Act**

**Explanation**

- (c) an explanation of the legal basis and reason for a complaint that is dismissed; and
- (d) other relevant information.
- (2) If a written complaint is filed with the board within the Board’s jurisdiction, the board, at least as frequently as quarterly and until final disposition of the complaint, shall notify the parties to the complaint of the status of the complaint unless the notice would jeopardize an ongoing investigation.
- (3) The board by rule shall adopt a form to standardize the information concerning complaints made to the board. The board by rule shall prescribe information to be provided to a person when the person files a complaint with the board.
- (4) The board shall provide reasonable assistance to a person who wishes to file a complaint with the board.
- (5) The board shall list along with its regular telephone number the toll-free telephone number that may be called to present a complaint about a health professional if the toll-free number is established under other state law.

**4.04 Complaint Investigation and Disposition**

(1) The board shall adopt rules concerning the investigation of a complaint filed with the board. The rules adopted under this subsection shall:

- (a) distinguish between categories of complaints;
  - (b) ensure that complaints receive appropriate consideration;
  - (c) adopt regulations to communicate with and monitor the disciplinary action if it is handled by another authority;
  - (d) notify the complainant in writing of the reasons for the dismissal of a complaint;
  - (e) ensure that the person who filed the complaint has an opportunity to explain the allegations made in the complaint;
  - (f) prescribe guidelines concerning the categories of complaints that require the use of a private investigator and the procedures for the board to obtain the services of a private investigator.
- (2) The board shall dispose of all complaints in a timely manner. The board shall establish a

**4.04 Complaint Investigation and Disposition**

All states except Kentucky have Administrative Procedures Acts which specify the procedures to be followed in settling contested cases. Some states also have an intermediate hearings board before judicial appeal.

## Act

## Explanation

schedule for conducting each phase of a complaint that is under the control of the board not later than the 30<sup>th</sup> day after the date the complaint is received by the board. The schedule shall be kept in the information file for the complaint and all parties shall be notified of the projected time requirements for pursuing the complaint. A change in the schedule must be noted in the complaint information file and all parties to the complaint must be notified not later than the seventh day after the change is made.

(3) The director of the board shall notify the board of a complaint that extends beyond the time prescribed by the board for resolving the complaint so that the board may take necessary action on the complaint.

### **4.05 Due Process**

(1) Before the Board imposes disciplinary actions, it shall give the individual against who the action is contemplated an opportunity for a hearing before the Board. The Board shall give notice and hold a hearing in accordance with the state's Administrative Procedures Act. Any person aggrieved by a final decision of the Board may appeal in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act.

The individual shall be entitled to be heard in his or her own defense, alone or with counsel, and may produce testimony and testify in his or her own behalf.

### **4.06 Monitoring of Licensure Holder**

(1) The board by rule shall develop a system for monitoring license holders' compliance with the requirements of this Act. Rules adopted under this section shall include procedures for monitoring a license holder who is ordered by the board to perform certain acts and to identify and monitor license holders who present a risk to the public.

### **4.07 Injunction**

(1) The Board is empowered to apply for relief by injunction, without bond, to restrain any person, partnership, or corporation from engaging in any act or practice which constitutes an offense against this Act. It shall not be necessary for the Board to allege and

**Act**

**Explanation**

prove that there is no adequate remedy at law in order to obtain the relief requested. The members of the Board shall not be individually liable for applying for such relief.

(2) If a person other than a licensed audiologist or speech-language pathologist has engaged in any act or practice which constitutes an offense under this Act, a district court of any county on application of the board may issue an injunction or other appropriate order restraining such conduct.

**4.08 Jurisdiction Over Unlicensed Practice Section\_\_ of this Act makes it unlawful for any unlicensed person to engage in the practice of audiology or speech-language pathology, and by enabling the Board to exact penalties for unlawful practice. Any individual who, after a hearing, shall be found by the Board to have unlawfully engaged in the practice of audiology or speech-language pathology shall be subject to a fine to be imposed by the Board not to exceed \$\_\_\_\_\_ for each offense. Each such violation of this Act or the rules promulgated hereunder pertaining to unlawfully engaging in the practice of audiology or speech-language pathology shall also constitute a misdemeanor punishable upon conviction as provided in criminal code of the state.**

**4.08 Unlicensed practice is a problem across the country. This clause allows the Board specific jurisdiction to stop the practice and the issuance of penalties.**

**4.09 National Practitioners DataBank All actions taken by the Board against a person licensed under this Act shall be reported to the National Practitioners Databank.**

**Article 5. Severability**

**5.01 Severability**

If any part of this Act is for any reason held unconstitutional, inoperative or void, such holdings of invalidity shall not affect the remaining portions of the Act; and it shall be construed to have been the legislative intent to pass this Act without such unconstitutional, invalid or inoperative part therein; and the remainder of this Act, after the exclusion of such part or parts, shall be valid as if such parts

**Act**

**Explanation**

were not contained therein.

**5.02 Termination**

Unless reenacted by the legislature, the provisions of this Act shall be without effect after ( ).

**5.03 Effective Date**

This Act is effective ( ).

**5.02 Termination**

Not all states have legislation governing the termination of licensure legislation. States that have such legislation, known as sunset laws, require licensure laws to be repealed on a specified date unless, after review by the legislature, they are reenacted.

**Act**

**Explanation**