

Bill No. SB 518

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Proposed Committee Substitute by the Committee on Health Care

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to health professionals
3 treating speech or hearing disorders; amending
4 s. 468.1155, F.S.; revising requirements for
5 the Department of Health in issuing a
6 provisional license to practice speech-language
7 pathology or audiology; revising licensing
8 requirements for applicants who graduated, or
9 who are currently enrolled, in a
10 speech-language pathology or audiology program
11 at a university located outside of the United
12 States or Canada; authorizing the Board of
13 Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology to
14 waive certain requirements for applicants who
15 received professional education in another
16 country under certain circumstances; amending
17 s. 468.1165, F.S.; revising requirements for
18 applicants to obtain professional employment in
19 order to be licensed by the department to
20 practice speech-language pathology or
21 audiology; amending s. 468.1185, F.S.; revising
22 requirements for the department to issue a
23 license to an applicant to practice
24 speech-language pathology or audiology;
25 amending s. 468.1215, F.S.; revising
26 requirements for a person to be certified as an
27 audiology assistant; requiring an audiologist
28 or speech-language pathologist to give an
29 assistant a board-approved plan for training
30 and to maintain responsibility for services
31 performed by the assistant; providing an

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1 effective date.

2

3 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

4

5 Section 1. Section 468.1155, Florida Statutes, is
6 amended to read:

7 468.1155 Provisional license; requirements.--

8 (1)(a) A provisional license shall be required of all
9 applicants for a license in speech-language pathology who
10 cannot document a minimum of 9 months of supervised
11 professional employment experience and a passing score on the
12 national examination. A provisional license shall be required
13 of all applicants for a license in audiology who cannot
14 document 11 months of supervised clinical experience and a
15 passing score on the national examination.

16 (b) Individuals who are required to hold a provisional
17 license under paragraph (a) shall apply to the department and
18 be certified by the board for licensure prior to initiating
19 the professional employment experience required pursuant to s.
20 468.1165.

21 (2) The department shall issue a provisional license
22 to practice speech-language pathology to each applicant who
23 the board certifies has:

24 (a) Completed the application form and remitted the
25 required fees, including a nonrefundable application fee.

26 (b) Received a master's degree or has completed the
27 academic requirement of ~~is currently enrolled in~~ a doctoral
28 degree program with a major emphasis in speech-language
29 pathology from an institution of higher learning that ~~which~~
30 is, or at the time the applicant was enrolled and graduated
31 was, accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the

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1 Council for Higher Education Accreditation or its successor or
2 the United States Department of Education, or from an
3 institution ~~that~~ ~~which~~ is a member in good standing with the
4 Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada. An
5 applicant who graduated from or is currently enrolled in a
6 program at a university or college outside the United States
7 or Canada must present documentation of the determination of
8 equivalency of the program to standards established by an
9 accrediting body recognized by the Council for Higher
10 Education Accreditation or its successor or the United States
11 Department of Education in order to qualify.

12 1. The applicant must have completed the program
13 requirements by academic course work, practicum experience, or
14 laboratory or research activity, as verified by the program,
15 including:

16 a. Knowledge of basic human communication and
17 swallowing processes, including their biological,
18 neurological, acoustic, psychological, developmental, and
19 linguistic and cultural bases.

20 b. Knowledge of the nature of speech, language,
21 hearing, and communication disorders and differences and
22 swallowing disorders, including their etiologies,
23 characteristics, anatomical or physiological, acoustic,
24 psychological, developmental, and linguistic and cultural
25 correlates, voice and resonance, including respiration and
26 phonation, receptive and expressive language in speaking,
27 listening, reading, writing, and manual modalities, hearing,
28 including the impact on speech and language, swallowing,
29 cognitive aspects of communication, social aspects of
30 communication, and communication modalities.

31 c. Knowledge of the principles and methods of

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1 prevention, assessment, and intervention for people having
2 communication and swallowing disorders, including
3 consideration of anatomical or physiological, psychological,
4 developmental, and linguistic and cultural correlates of the
5 disorders, articulation, fluency, voice and resonance,
6 receptive and expressive communication, hearing, swallowing,
7 cognitive aspects of communication, social aspects of
8 communication, and communication modalities.

9 2. The program must include appropriate supervised
10 clinical experiences.

11
12 The board may waive the requirements for education, practicum,
13 and professional employment experience for an applicant who
14 received a professional education in another country if the
15 board is satisfied that the applicant meets the equivalent
16 education and practicum requirements and passes the
17 examination in speech-language pathology. ~~60 semester hours~~
18 that include:

19 1. ~~Fundamental information applicable to the normal~~
20 ~~development and use of speech, hearing, and language;~~
21 ~~information about training in management of speech, hearing,~~
22 ~~and language disorders; and information supplementary to these~~
23 ~~fields.~~

24 2. ~~Six semester hours in audiology.~~

25 3. ~~Thirty of the required 60 semester hours in courses~~
26 ~~acceptable toward a graduate degree by the college or~~
27 ~~university in which these courses were taken, of which 24~~
28 ~~semester hours must be in speech-language pathology.~~

29 (c) ~~Completed 300 supervised clinical clock hours with~~
30 ~~200 clock hours in the area of speech-language pathology or~~
31 ~~completed the number of clock hours required by an accredited~~

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1 ~~institution meeting national certification standards. The~~
2 ~~supervised clinical clock hours shall be completed within the~~
3 ~~training institution or one of its cooperating programs.~~

4 (3) The department shall issue a provisional license
5 to practice audiology to each applicant who the board
6 certifies has:

7 (a) Completed the application form and remitted the
8 required fees, including a nonrefundable application fee.

9 (b) Effective January 1, 2007, earned a doctoral
10 degree in audiology, but has not passed the license
11 examination required for a license in audiology or has
12 completed the academic requirements of ~~Received a master's~~
13 ~~degree or is currently enrolled in a doctoral degree program~~
14 with a major emphasis in audiology from an institution of
15 higher learning that ~~which~~ is, or at the time the applicant
16 was enrolled and graduated was, accredited by an accrediting
17 agency recognized by the Council for Higher Education
18 Accreditation or its successor or the United States Department
19 of Education, or from an institution that ~~which~~ is a member in
20 good standing with the Association of Universities and
21 Colleges of Canada. An applicant who graduated from or is
22 currently enrolled in a program at a university or college
23 outside the United States or Canada must present documentation
24 of the determination of equivalency of the program to
25 standards established by an accrediting body recognized by the
26 Council for Higher Education Accreditation or its successor or
27 the United States Department of Education in order to qualify.

28 1. The program must assure that the student obtained
29 knowledge of foundation areas of basic body systems and
30 processes related to hearing and balance.

31 2. The program must assure that the student obtained

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1 skills for the diagnosis, management, and treatment of
2 auditory and vestibular or balance conditions and diseases.

3 3. The program must assure that the student can
4 effectively communicate with patients and other health care
5 professionals.

6 4. The program must assure that the student obtained
7 knowledge of professional ethical systems as they relate to
8 the practice of audiology.

9 5. The program must assure that the student obtained
10 clinical experiences that encompass the entire scope of
11 practice and focus on the most current evidence-based
12 practice.

13
14 The board may waive the education, practicum, and professional
15 employment experience requirements for an applicant who
16 received a professional education in another country if the
17 board is satisfied that the applicant meets equivalent
18 education and practicum requirements and passes the
19 examination in audiology.

20 (c) Has earned a master's degree with a major emphasis
21 in audiology which was conferred before January 1, 2007, from
22 an institution of higher learning which was, or at the time
23 the applicant was enrolled and graduated, accredited by an
24 accrediting agency recognized by the Council for Higher
25 Education Accreditation or its successor, the United States
26 Department of Education, or from an institution that is a
27 member in good standing with the Association of Universities
28 and Colleges of Canada.

29 1. An applicant who graduated from or is currently
30 enrolled in a program at a university or college outside the
31 United States or Canada must present documentation of the

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1 determination of equivalency of the program to standards
2 established by an accrediting body recognized by the Council
3 for Higher Education Accreditation or its successor or the
4 United States Department of Education in order to qualify.

5 2. The board may waive the education, practicum, and
6 professional employment experience requirements for an
7 applicant who received a professional education in another
8 country if the board is satisfied that the applicant meets
9 equivalent education and practicum requirements and passes the
10 examination in audiology. This paragraph expires on January 1,
11 2012. The applicant must have completed 60 semester hours that
12 include:

13 1. Fundamental information applicable to the normal
14 development and use of speech, hearing, and language;
15 information about training in management of speech, hearing,
16 and language disorders; and information supplementary to these
17 fields.

18 2. Six semester hours in speech-language pathology.

19 3. Thirty of the required 60 semester hours in courses
20 acceptable toward a graduate degree by the college or
21 university in which these courses were taken, of which 24
22 semester hours must be in audiology.

23 (c) Completed 300 supervised clinical clock hours with
24 200 clock hours in the area of audiology or completed the
25 number of clock hours required by an accredited institution
26 meeting national certification standards. The supervised
27 clinical clock hours shall be completed within the training
28 institution or one of its cooperating programs.

29 (4) An applicant who has received a master's degree or
30 is currently enrolled in a doctoral degree program with a
31 major emphasis in speech-language pathology as provided in

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1 ~~subsection (2), or audiology as provided in subsection (3),~~
2 ~~and who seeks licensure in the area in which the applicant is~~
3 ~~not currently licensed, must have completed 30 semester hours~~
4 ~~in courses acceptable toward a graduate degree and 200~~
5 ~~supervised clinical clock hours in the second discipline from~~
6 ~~an accredited institution.~~

7 ~~(4)(5)~~ The board, by rule, shall establish
8 requirements for the renewal of a provisional license.
9 However, a provisional license may not exceed a period of 24
10 months.

11 Section 2. Section 468.1165, Florida Statutes, is
12 amended to read:

13 468.1165 Professional employment experience
14 requirement.--Every applicant for licensure as a
15 speech-language ~~speech~~ pathologist ~~must or audiologist shall~~
16 demonstrate, prior to licensure, a minimum of 9 months of
17 full-time professional employment, or the equivalent in
18 part-time professional employment, ~~pertinent to the license~~
19 being sought. Each applicant for licensure as an audiologist
20 must demonstrate, prior to licensure, a minimum of 11 months
21 of full-time professional employment, or the equivalent in
22 part-time professional employment. The board, by rule, shall
23 establish standards for obtaining and verifying the required
24 professional employment experience.

25 Section 3. Subsections (2) and (3) of section
26 468.1185, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

27 468.1185 Licensure.--

28 (2) The board shall certify for licensure any
29 applicant who has:

30 (a) Satisfied the education and supervised clinical
31 ~~clock hour~~ requirements of s. 468.1155.

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1 (b) Satisfied the professional experience requirement
2 of s. 468.1165.

3 (c) Passed the licensure examination required by s.
4 468.1175.

5 (d) An applicant for an audiologist license who has
6 obtained a doctoral degree in audiology has satisfied the
7 education and supervised clinical requirements of paragraph
8 (a) and the professional experience requirements of paragraph
9 (b).

10 (3) The board shall certify as qualified for a license
11 by endorsement as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist
12 an applicant who:

13 (a) Holds a valid license or certificate in another
14 state or territory of the United States to practice the
15 profession for which the application for licensure is made, if
16 the criteria for issuance of such license were substantially
17 equivalent to or more stringent than the licensure criteria
18 which existed in this state at the time the license was
19 issued; or

20 (b) Holds a valid ~~Has received the~~ certificate of
21 clinical competence of the American Speech-Language and
22 Hearing Association or board certification in audiology from
23 the American Board of Audiology.

24 Section 4. Subsections (2), (3), and (4) of section
25 468.1215, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

26 468.1215 Speech-language pathology assistant and
27 audiology assistant; certification.--

28 (2) The department shall issue a certificate as an
29 audiology assistant to each applicant who the board certifies
30 has:

31 (a) Completed the application form and remitted the

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1 required fees, including a nonrefundable application fee.

2 (b) Earned a high school diploma or its equivalent.

3 ~~Completed at least 24 semester hours of coursework as approved~~

4 ~~by the board at an institution accredited by an accrediting~~

5 ~~agency recognized by the Council for Higher Education~~

6 ~~Accreditation.~~

7 (3) An audiologist or speech-language pathologist who

8 employs a speech-language assistant or audiology assistant

9 must provide the assistant with a plan approved by the board

10 for on-the-job training and must maintain responsibility for

11 all services performed by the assistant. The board, by rule,

12 shall establish minimum education and on-the-job training and

13 supervision requirements for certification as a

14 speech-language pathology assistant or audiology assistant.

15 (4) The provisions of this section shall not apply to

16 any student, intern, or trainee performing speech-language

17 pathology or audiology services while completing the

18 supervised clinical experience ~~clock hours~~ as required in s.

19 468.1155.

20 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.

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