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A bill to be entitled
 An act relating to health professionals treating speech or hearing disorders; amending s. 468.1155, F.S.; revising requirements for the Department of Health in issuing a provisional license to practice speech-language pathology or audiology; revising licensing requirements for applicants who graduated or who are currently enrolled in a speech-language pathology or audiology program at a university outside the United States or Canada; providing for the establishment of a time period for renewing a provisional license; amending s. 468.1165, F.S.; deleting a specific time period for the professional-employment requirement for licensure as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist; amending s. 468.1185, F.S.; revising the requirements for qualification for a license by endorsement as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist; amending s. 468.1215, F.S.; revising the requirements for certification as a speech-language pathology assistant or an audiology assistant; providing an effective date.

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

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

468.1155 Provisional license; requirements.--

(1)(a) A provisional license is ~~shall be~~ required of all applicants who cannot document the required ~~9 months of~~

CODING: Words **stricken** are deletions; words **underlined** are additions.

29 supervised professional employment experience as required by the
 30 board and a passing score on the national examination.

31 (b) Individuals who are required to hold a provisional
 32 license under paragraph (a) shall apply to the department and be
 33 certified by the board for licensure prior to initiating the
 34 professional employment experience required pursuant to s.
 35 468.1165.

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

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

41 (b) Received a master's degree or has completed the
 42 academic requirement of ~~is currently enrolled in~~ a doctoral
 43 degree program with a major emphasis in speech-language
 44 pathology from an institution of higher learning that ~~which~~ is,
 45 or at the time the applicant was enrolled and graduated was,
 46 accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the United
 47 States Department of Education or its successor organization
 48 ~~Council for Higher Education Accreditation~~ or from an
 49 institution that ~~which~~ is a member in good standing with the
 50 Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada. An applicant
 51 who graduated from or is currently enrolled in a program at a
 52 university or college outside the United States or Canada must
 53 present documentation of the determination of equivalency to
 54 standards established by the United States Department of
 55 Education or its successor organization ~~Council for Higher~~
 56 ~~Education Accreditation~~ in order to qualify. The applicant must

57 have completed the academic and clinical requirements as
58 established by rule of the board. The board may waive the
59 requirements for education, practicum, and professional
60 employment experience for an applicant who received a
61 professional education in another country if the board is
62 satisfied that the applicant meets the equivalent education and
63 practicum requirements, passes the examination in speech-
64 language pathology, and meets other requirements established by
65 rule of the board. ~~60 semester hours that include:~~

66 ~~1. Fundamental information applicable to the normal~~
67 ~~development and use of speech, hearing, and language;~~
68 ~~information about training in management of speech, hearing, and~~
69 ~~language disorders; and information supplementary to these~~
70 ~~fields.~~

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

72 ~~3. Thirty of the required 60 semester hours in courses~~
73 ~~acceptable toward a graduate degree by the college or university~~
74 ~~in which these courses were taken, of which 24 semester hours~~
75 ~~must be in speech language pathology.~~

76 ~~(c) Completed 300 supervised clinical clock hours with 200~~
77 ~~clock hours in the area of speech language pathology or~~
78 ~~completed the number of clock hours required by an accredited~~
79 ~~institution meeting national certification standards. The~~
80 ~~supervised clinical clock hours shall be completed within the~~
81 ~~training institution or one of its cooperating programs.~~

82 (3) The department shall issue a provisional license to
83 practice audiology to each applicant who the board certifies
84 has:

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

87 (b) Effective January 1, 2007, earned a doctoral degree in
 88 audiology ~~Received a master's degree or completed the academic~~
 89 requirement of ~~is currently enrolled in~~ a doctoral degree
 90 program with a major emphasis in audiology from an institution
 91 of higher learning that ~~which~~ is, or at the time the applicant
 92 was enrolled and graduated was, accredited by an accrediting
 93 agency recognized by the United States Department of Education
 94 or its successor organization ~~Council for Higher Education~~
 95 ~~Accreditation~~ or from an institution that ~~which~~ is a member in
 96 good standing with the Association of Universities and Colleges
 97 of Canada. An applicant who graduated from or is currently
 98 enrolled in a program at a university or college outside the
 99 United States or Canada must present documentation of the
 100 determination of equivalency to standards established by the
 101 United States Department of Education or its successor
 102 organization ~~Council for Higher Education Accreditation~~ in order
 103 to qualify. The applicant must have completed the academic and
 104 clinical requirements established by rule of the board. The
 105 board may waive the education, practicum, and professional
 106 employment experience requirements for an applicant who received
 107 a professional education in another country if the board is
 108 satisfied that the applicant meets equivalent education and
 109 practicum requirements, passes the examination in audiology, and
 110 meets other requirements established by rule of the board.

111 (c) Earned a master's degree with a major emphasis in
 112 audiology which was conferred before January 1, 2007, from an

113 institution of higher learning which was, or at the time the
114 applicant was enrolled and graduated, accredited by an
115 accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of
116 Education or its successor organization or from an institution
117 that is a member in good standing with the Association of
118 Universities and Colleges of Canada.

119
120 An applicant who graduated from or is currently enrolled in a
121 program at a university or college outside the United States or
122 Canada must present documentation of the determination of
123 equivalency to standards established by the United States
124 Department of Education or its successor organization or from an
125 institution that is a member in good standing with the
126 Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada in order to
127 qualify. The applicant must have completed the academic and
128 clinical requirements established by rule of the board. The
129 board may waive the education, practicum, and professional
130 employment experience requirements for an applicant who received
131 a professional education in another country if the board is
132 satisfied that the applicant meets equivalent education and
133 practicum requirements, passes the examination in audiology, and
134 meets other requirements established by rule of the board. 60
135 semester hours that include:

136 1. Fundamental information applicable to the normal
137 development and use of speech, hearing, and language;
138 information about training in management of speech, hearing, and
139 language disorders; and information supplementary to these
140 fields.

141 ~~2. Six semester hours in speech language pathology.~~
 142 ~~3. Thirty of the required 60 semester hours in courses~~
 143 ~~acceptable toward a graduate degree by the college or university~~
 144 ~~in which these courses were taken, of which 24 semester hours~~
 145 ~~must be in audiology.~~

146 ~~(c) Completed 300 supervised clinical clock hours with 200~~
 147 ~~clock hours in the area of audiology or completed the number of~~
 148 ~~clock hours required by an accredited institution meeting~~
 149 ~~national certification standards. The supervised clinical clock~~
 150 ~~hours shall be completed within the training institution or one~~
 151 ~~of its cooperating programs.~~

152 ~~(4) An applicant who has received a master's degree or is~~
 153 ~~currently enrolled in a doctoral degree program with a major~~
 154 ~~emphasis in speech language pathology as provided in subsection~~
 155 ~~(2), or audiology as provided in subsection (3), and who seeks~~
 156 ~~licensure in the area in which the applicant is not currently~~
 157 ~~licensed, must have completed 30 semester hours in courses~~
 158 ~~acceptable toward a graduate degree and 200 supervised clinical~~
 159 ~~clock hours in the second discipline from an accredited~~
 160 ~~institution.~~

161 ~~(4)(5)~~ The board, by rule, shall establish requirements
 162 for the renewal of a provisional license. ~~However,~~ A provisional
 163 license may not exceed the time allowed by rule of the board a
 164 ~~period of 24 months.~~

165 (5) An applicant for provisional licensure must
 166 demonstrate good moral character.

167 Section 2. Section 468.1165, Florida Statutes, is amended
 168 to read:

169 468.1165 Professional employment experience
 170 requirement.--Every applicant for licensure as a speech-language
 171 ~~speech~~ pathologist or audiologist shall demonstrate, prior to
 172 licensure, ~~9 months of~~ full-time or equivalent part-time
 173 professional employment, as determined by the board ~~or the~~
 174 ~~equivalent in part-time professional employment~~, pertinent to
 175 the license being sought. The board, by rule, shall establish
 176 standards for obtaining and verifying the required professional
 177 employment experience.

178 Section 3. Section 468.1185, Florida Statutes, is amended
 179 to read:

180 468.1185 Licensure.--

181 (1) The department shall license any applicant whom the
 182 board certifies is qualified to practice speech-language
 183 pathology or audiology and who has paid the initial licensure
 184 fee.

185 (2) The board shall certify for licensure any applicant
 186 who has:

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

189 (b) Satisfied the professional experience requirement of
 190 s. 468.1165.

191 (c) Passed the licensure examination required by s.
 192 468.1175.

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

196 (a) Holds a valid license or certificate in another state

197 or territory of the United States to practice the profession for
 198 which the application for licensure is made, if the criteria for
 199 issuance of such license were substantially equivalent to or
 200 more stringent than the licensure criteria which existed in this
 201 state at the time the license was issued; or

202 (b) Holds a valid certificate that meets or exceeds the
 203 licensure requirements in this state as determined by rule of
 204 the board ~~Has received the certificate of clinical competence of~~
 205 ~~the American Speech Language and Hearing Association.~~

206 (4) The board may refuse to certify any applicant who is
 207 under investigation in any jurisdiction for an act which would
 208 constitute a violation of this part or chapter 456 until the
 209 investigation is complete and disciplinary proceedings have been
 210 terminated.

211 (5) An applicant for licensure or provisional licensure
 212 must demonstrate good moral character ~~The board may refuse to~~
 213 ~~certify any applicant who has violated any of the provisions of~~
 214 ~~s. 468.1245.~~

215 Section 4. Section 468.1215, Florida Statutes, is amended
 216 to read:

217 468.1215 Speech-language pathology assistant and audiology
 218 assistant; certification.--

219 (1) The department shall issue a certificate as a speech-
 220 language pathology assistant to each applicant who the board
 221 certifies has:

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

224 (b) Completed the minimum requirements for education and

225 on-the-job training adopted by rule of the board ~~Earned a~~
 226 ~~bachelor's degree from a college or university accredited by a~~
 227 ~~regional association of colleges and schools recognized by the~~
 228 ~~Department of Education which includes at least 24 semester~~
 229 ~~hours of coursework as approved by the board at an institution~~
 230 ~~accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the Council~~
 231 ~~for Higher Education Accreditation.~~

232 (2) The department shall issue a certificate as an
 233 audiology assistant to each applicant who the board certifies
 234 has:

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

237 (b) Completed the minimum requirements for education and
 238 on-the-job training adopted by rule of the board ~~Completed at~~
 239 ~~least 24 semester hours of coursework as approved by the board~~
 240 ~~at an institution accredited by an accrediting agency recognized~~
 241 ~~by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.~~

242 (3) The board, by rule, shall establish minimum education
 243 and on-the-job training and supervision requirements for
 244 certification as a speech-language pathology assistant or
 245 audiology assistant.

246 (4) The provisions of this section shall not apply to any
 247 student, intern, or trainee performing speech-language pathology
 248 or audiology services while completing the supervised clinical
 249 experience ~~clock hours~~ as required in s. 468.1155.

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