

By Senator Peaden

2-362-06

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  
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1 performed by the assistant; providing an  
2 effective date.

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

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

8 468.1155 Provisional license; requirements.--

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

17 (b) Individuals who are required to hold a provisional  
18 license under paragraph (a) shall apply to the department and  
19 be certified by the board for licensure prior to initiating  
20 the professional employment experience required pursuant to s.  
21 468.1165.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

30           ~~(c) Completed 300 supervised clinical clock hours with~~  
31 ~~200 clock hours in the area of speech language pathology or~~

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

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

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

10 (b) Effective January 1, 2008, earned a doctoral  
11 degree in audiology, but has not passed the license  
12 examination required for a license in audiology or has  
13 completed the academic requirements of ~~Received a master's~~  
14 ~~degree or is currently enrolled in~~ a doctoral degree program  
15 with a major emphasis in audiology from an institution of  
16 higher learning ~~that which~~ is, or at the time the applicant  
17 was enrolled and graduated was, accredited by an accrediting  
18 agency recognized by the Council for Higher Education  
19 Accreditation or its successor or the United States Department  
20 of Education, or from an institution that which is a member in  
21 good standing with the Association of Universities and  
22 Colleges of Canada. An applicant who graduated from or is  
23 currently enrolled in a program at a university or college  
24 outside the United States or Canada must present documentation  
25 of the determination of equivalency of the program to  
26 standards established by an accrediting body recognized by the  
27 Council for Higher Education Accreditation or its successor or  
28 the United States Department of Education in order to qualify.

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

1           2. The program must assure that the student obtained  
2 skills for the diagnosis, management, and treatment of  
3 auditory and vestibular or balance conditions and diseases.

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

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

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

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

21           (c) Has earned a master's degree with a major emphasis  
22 in audiology which was conferred before January 1, 2008, from  
23 an institution of higher learning which was, or at the time  
24 the applicant was enrolled and graduated, accredited by an  
25 accrediting agency recognized by the Council for Higher  
26 Education Accreditation or its successor, the United States  
27 Department of Education, or from an institution that is a  
28 member in good standing with the Association of Universities  
29 and Colleges of Canada.

30           1. An applicant who graduated from or is currently  
31 enrolled in a program at a university or college outside the

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

6 2. The board may waive the education, practicum, and  
7 professional employment experience requirements for an  
8 applicant who received a professional education in another  
9 country if the board is satisfied that the applicant meets  
10 equivalent education and practicum requirements and passes the  
11 examination in audiology. This paragraph expires on January 1,  
12 2013. The applicant must have completed 60 semester hours that  
13 include:

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

19 2. Six semester hours in speech language pathology.

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

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

30 (4) An applicant who has received a master's degree or  
31 is currently enrolled in a doctoral degree program with a

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

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

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

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

26         Section 3. Subsections (2) and (3) of section  
27 468.1185, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

28         468.1185 Licensure.--

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

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1 (a) Satisfied the education and supervised clinical  
2 ~~clock-hour~~ requirements of s. 468.1155.

3 (b) Satisfied the professional experience requirement  
4 of s. 468.1165.

5 (c) Passed the licensure examination required by s.  
6 468.1175.

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

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

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

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

26 Section 4. Subsections (2), (3), and (4) of section  
27 468.1215, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

28 468.1215 Speech-language pathology assistant and  
29 audiology assistant; certification.--  
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1           (2) The department shall issue a certificate as an  
2 audiology assistant to each applicant who the board certifies  
3 has:

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

6           (b) Earned a high school diploma or its equivalent.  
7 ~~Completed at least 24 semester hours of coursework as approved~~  
8 ~~by the board at an institution accredited by an accrediting~~  
9 ~~agency recognized by the Council for Higher Education~~  
10 ~~Accreditation.~~

11           (3) An audiologist or speech-language pathologist who  
12 employs a speech-language assistant or audiology assistant  
13 must provide the assistant with a plan approved by the board  
14 for on-the-job training and must maintain responsibility for  
15 all services performed by the assistant. The board, by rule,  
16 shall establish minimum education and on-the-job training and  
17 supervision requirements for certification as a  
18 speech-language pathology assistant or audiology assistant.

19           (4) The provisions of this section shall not apply to  
20 any student, intern, or trainee performing speech-language  
21 pathology or audiology services while completing the  
22 supervised clinical experience ~~clock hours~~ as required in s.  
23 468.1155.

24           Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.  
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SENATE SUMMARY

Provides requirements for issuing a provisional license to practice speech-language pathology or audiology. Revises 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. Provides a time period for the renewal of a provisional license. Deletes a specific time period for the professional employment requirement for licensure. Revises requirements for qualification for a license by endorsement as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist. Revises requirements for certification as a speech-language pathology assistant and an audiology assistant.