

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

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) Earned a master's degree with a major emphasis in
22 audiology which was conferred before January 1, 2008, from an
23 institution of higher learning which was, or at the time the
24 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:

31

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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