

1 A bill to be entitled

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

26  
27 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
28

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

31 468.1155 Provisional license; requirements.--

32 (1)(a) A provisional license shall be required of all  
 33 applicants for a license in speech-language pathology who cannot  
 34 document a minimum of 9 months of supervised professional  
 35 employment experience and a passing score on the national  
 36 examination. A provisional license shall be required of all  
 37 applicants for a license in audiology who cannot document a  
 38 minimum of 11 months of supervised clinical experience and a  
 39 passing score on the national examination.

40 (b) Individuals who are required to hold a provisional  
 41 license under paragraph (a) shall apply to the department and be  
 42 certified by the board for licensure prior to initiating the  
 43 professional employment experience required pursuant to s.  
 44 468.1165.

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

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

50 (b) Received a master's degree or completed the academic  
 51 requirement of ~~is currently enrolled in~~ a doctoral degree  
 52 program with a major emphasis in speech-language pathology from  
 53 an institution of higher learning that ~~which~~ is, or at the time  
 54 the applicant was enrolled and graduated was, accredited by an  
 55 accrediting agency recognized by the Council for Higher  
 56 Education Accreditation or its successor or the United States

57 Department of Education or from an institution that ~~which~~ is a  
58 member in good standing with the Association of Universities and  
59 Colleges of Canada. An applicant who graduated from or is  
60 currently enrolled in a program at a university or college  
61 outside the United States or Canada must present documentation  
62 of the determination of equivalency of the program to standards  
63 established by an accrediting body recognized by the Council for  
64 Higher Education Accreditation or its successor or the United  
65 States Department of Education in order to qualify.

66 1. The applicant must have completed the program  
67 requirements by academic course work, practicum experience, or  
68 laboratory or research activity, as verified by the program,  
69 including:

70 a. Knowledge of basic human communication and swallowing  
71 processes, including their biological, neurological, acoustic,  
72 psychological, developmental, and linguistic and cultural bases.

73 b. Knowledge of the nature of speech, language, hearing,  
74 and communication disorders and differences and swallowing  
75 disorders, including their etiologies; anatomical or  
76 physiological characteristics; acoustic, psychological,  
77 developmental, and linguistic and cultural correlates; voice and  
78 resonance, including respiration and phonation; receptive and  
79 expressive language in speaking, listening, reading, writing,  
80 and manual modalities; hearing, including the impact on speech  
81 and language; swallowing; cognitive aspects of communication;  
82 social aspects of communication; and communication modalities.

83 c. Knowledge of the principles and methods of prevention,  
84 assessment, and intervention for people having communication and

85 swallowing disorders, including consideration of anatomical or  
 86 physiological, psychological, developmental, and linguistic and  
 87 cultural correlates of the disorders, articulation, fluency,  
 88 voice and resonance, receptive and expressive communication,  
 89 hearing, swallowing, cognitive aspects of communication, social  
 90 aspects of communication, and communication modalities.

91 2. The program must include appropriate supervised  
 92 clinical experiences.

93  
 94 The board may waive the requirements for education, practicum,  
 95 and professional employment experience for an applicant who  
 96 received a professional education in another country if the  
 97 board is satisfied that the applicant meets the equivalent  
 98 education and practicum requirements and passes the examination  
 99 in speech-language pathology. ~~60 semester hours that include:~~

100 1. ~~Fundamental information applicable to the normal~~  
 101 ~~development and use of speech, hearing, and language;~~  
 102 ~~information about training in management of speech, hearing, and~~  
 103 ~~language disorders; and information supplementary to these~~  
 104 ~~fields.~~

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

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

110 (c) ~~Completed 300 supervised clinical clock hours with 200~~  
 111 ~~clock hours in the area of speech language pathology or~~  
 112 ~~completed the number of clock hours required by an accredited~~

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

116 (3) The department shall issue a provisional license to  
117 practice audiology to each applicant who the board certifies  
118 has:

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

121 (b) Effective January 1, 2008, earned a doctoral degree in  
122 audiology, but has not passed the license examination required  
123 for a license in audiology or has completed the academic  
124 requirements of ~~Received a master's degree or is currently~~  
125 ~~enrolled in~~ a doctoral degree program with a major emphasis in  
126 audiology from an institution of higher learning ~~that~~ ~~which~~ is,  
127 or at the time the applicant was enrolled and graduated was,  
128 accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the Council  
129 for Higher Education Accreditation or its successor or the  
130 United States Department of Education or from an institution  
131 ~~that~~ ~~which~~ is a member in good standing with the Association of  
132 Universities and Colleges of Canada. An applicant who graduated  
133 from or is currently enrolled in a program at a university or  
134 college outside the United States or Canada must present  
135 documentation of the determination of equivalency of the program  
136 to standards established by an accrediting body recognized by  
137 the Council for Higher Education Accreditation or its successor  
138 or the United States Department of Education in order to  
139 qualify.

140 1. The program must ensure that the student obtained

141 knowledge of foundation areas of basic body systems and  
 142 processes related to hearing and balance.

143 2. The program must ensure that the student obtained  
 144 skills for the diagnosis, management, and treatment of auditory  
 145 and vestibular or balance conditions and diseases.

146 3. The program must ensure that the student can  
 147 effectively communicate with patients and other health care  
 148 professionals.

149 4. The program must ensure that the student obtained  
 150 knowledge of professional ethical systems as they relate to the  
 151 practice of audiology.

152 5. The program must ensure that the student obtained  
 153 clinical experiences that encompass the entire scope of practice  
 154 and focus on the most current evidence-based practice.

155  
 156 The board may waive the education, practicum, and professional  
 157 employment experience requirements for an applicant who received  
 158 a professional education in another country if the board is  
 159 satisfied that the applicant meets equivalent education and  
 160 practicum requirements and passes the examination in audiology.

161 (c) Has earned a master's degree with a major emphasis in  
 162 audiology which was conferred before January 1, 2008, from an  
 163 institution of higher learning which was, or at the time the  
 164 applicant was enrolled and graduated, accredited by an  
 165 accrediting agency recognized by the Council for Higher  
 166 Education Accreditation or its successor or the United States  
 167 Department of Education or from an institution that is a member  
 168 in good standing with the Association of Universities and

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169 Colleges of Canada.

170 1. An applicant who graduated from or is currently  
171 enrolled in a program at a university or college outside the  
172 United States or Canada must present documentation of the  
173 determination of equivalency of the program to standards  
174 established by an accrediting body recognized by the Council for  
175 Higher Education Accreditation or its successor or the United  
176 States Department of Education in order to qualify.

177 2. The board may waive the education, practicum, and  
178 professional employment experience requirements for an applicant  
179 who received a professional education in another country if the  
180 board is satisfied that the applicant meets equivalent education  
181 and practicum requirements and passes the examination in  
182 audiology. This paragraph expires January 1, 2013. The applicant  
183 must have completed 60 semester hours that include:

184 1. Fundamental information applicable to the normal  
185 development and use of speech, hearing, and language;  
186 information about training in management of speech, hearing, and  
187 language disorders; and information supplementary to these  
188 fields.

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

190 3. Thirty of the required 60 semester hours in courses  
191 acceptable toward a graduate degree by the college or university  
192 in which these courses were taken, of which 24 semester hours  
193 must be in audiology.

194 (c) Completed 300 supervised clinical clock hours with 200  
195 clock hours in the area of audiology or completed the number of  
196 clock hours required by an accredited institution meeting

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197 ~~national certification standards. The supervised clinical clock~~  
 198 ~~hours shall be completed within the training institution or one~~  
 199 ~~of its cooperating programs.~~

200 ~~(4) An applicant who has received a master's degree or is~~  
 201 ~~currently enrolled in a doctoral degree program with a major~~  
 202 ~~emphasis in speech language pathology as provided in subsection~~  
 203 ~~(2), or audiology as provided in subsection (3), and who seeks~~  
 204 ~~licensure in the area in which the applicant is not currently~~  
 205 ~~licensed, must have completed 30 semester hours in courses~~  
 206 ~~acceptable toward a graduate degree and 200 supervised clinical~~  
 207 ~~clock hours in the second discipline from an accredited~~  
 208 ~~institution.~~

209 (4)~~(5)~~ The board, by rule, shall establish requirements  
 210 for the renewal of a provisional license. However, a provisional  
 211 license may not exceed a period of 24 months.

212 Section 2. Section 468.1165, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 213 to read:

214 468.1165 Professional employment experience  
 215 requirement.--Every applicant for licensure as a speech-language  
 216 ~~speech~~ pathologist must ~~or audiologist shall~~ demonstrate, prior  
 217 to licensure, a minimum of 9 months of full-time professional  
 218 ~~employment, or the equivalent in part-time professional~~  
 219 ~~employment, pertinent to the license being sought. Each~~  
 220 applicant for licensure as an audiologist must demonstrate,  
 221 prior to licensure, a minimum of 11 months of full-time  
 222 professional employment or the equivalent in part-time  
 223 professional employment. The board, by rule, shall establish  
 224 standards for obtaining and verifying the required professional



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225 employment experience.

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

228 468.1185 Licensure.--

229 (2) (a) The board shall certify for licensure any applicant  
230 who has:

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

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

235 3.(e) Passed the licensure examination required by s.  
236 468.1175.

237 (b) An applicant for an audiologist license who has  
238 obtained a doctoral degree in audiology has satisfied the  
239 education and supervised clinical requirements of subparagraph  
240 (2) (a) 1. and the professional experience requirements of  
241 subparagraph (2) (b) 2.

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

245 (a) Holds a valid license or certificate in another state  
246 or territory of the United States to practice the profession for  
247 which the application for licensure is made, if the criteria for  
248 issuance of such license were substantially equivalent to or  
249 more stringent than the licensure criteria which existed in this  
250 state at the time the license was issued; or

251 (b) Holds a valid ~~Has received the~~ certificate of clinical  
252 competence of the American Speech-Language and Hearing

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253 Association or board certification in audiology from the  
254 American Board of Audiology.

255 Section 4. Subsections (2), (3), and (4) of section  
256 468.1215, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

257 468.1215 Speech-language pathology assistant and audiology  
258 assistant; certification.--

259 (2) The department shall issue a certificate as an  
260 audiology assistant to each applicant who the board certifies  
261 has:

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

264 (b) Earned a high school diploma or its equivalent.  
265 ~~Completed at least 24 semester hours of coursework as approved~~  
266 ~~by the board at an institution accredited by an accrediting~~  
267 ~~agency recognized by the Council for Higher Education~~  
268 ~~Accreditation.~~

269 (3) An audiologist or speech-language pathologist who  
270 employs a speech-language assistant or audiology assistant must  
271 provide the assistant with a plan approved by the board for on-  
272 the-job training and must maintain responsibility for all  
273 services performed by the assistant. The board, by rule, shall  
274 establish minimum education and on-the-job training and  
275 supervision requirements for certification as a speech-language  
276 pathology assistant or audiology assistant.

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

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