

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 387

BY REPRESENTATIVE CHASSION

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, in collaboration with the Louisiana Department of Health and the Louisiana Department of Education and with stakeholder input from the Louisiana Speech-Language-Hearing Association, to study and report on licensure and regulatory requirements for speech-language pathology assistants in this state.

WHEREAS, speech-language pathology assistants (SLPAs) play a critical role in expanding access to speech and language services across healthcare and educational settings; and

WHEREAS, this state currently requires speech-language pathology assistants to hold at a minimum a bachelor's degree in speech-language pathology or a related field and complete significant clinical practicum hours, including approximately two hundred twenty-five clinical hours for full licensure; and

WHEREAS, state law further requires supervised clinical training and ongoing supervision by licensed speech-language pathologists to ensure quality of care and professional accountability; and

WHEREAS, other states utilize a range of regulatory frameworks for speech-language pathology assistants; and

WHEREAS, variation among states presents an opportunity for comparative analysis to determine whether this state's requirements create unnecessary barriers to workforce entry while maintaining a commitment to high standards of care; and

WHEREAS, workforce shortages in speech-language pathology services, particularly in rural and medically underserved areas and schools, underscore the need to evaluate pathways that responsibly expand the pipeline of qualified assistants; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the state to ensure that regulatory frameworks both protect the public and promote the growth, accessibility, and sustainability of the profession.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, in collaboration with the Louisiana Department of Health and the state Department of Education, and with stakeholder input from the Louisiana Speech-Language-Hearing Association, to conduct a comprehensive study of licensure and regulatory requirements for speech-language pathology assistants in this state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following:

(1) A detailed review of state requirements for speech-language pathology assistants, including all of the following:

- (a) Educational prerequisites.
- (b) Clinical practicum and supervision requirements.
- (c) Licensure categories including provisional licensure.
- (d) Continuing education and renewal standards.

(2) A comparative analysis of other state regulations and policies for all of the following:

- (a) Clinical hour requirements.
- (b) Supervision models.
- (c) Alternative or expedited workforce entry pathways.

(3) An evaluation of professional and workforce outcomes including all of the following:

- (a) Workforce supply and demand trends.
- (b) Access to services in rural and underserved areas.
- (c) Retention and career advancement pathways.
- (d) Impact of regulatory structures on service delivery capacity.

(4) An assessment of regulatory burden including identification of requirements that may unnecessarily limit entry into the profession and administrative or procedural barriers to licensure or practice.

(5) An analysis of best practices including models that successfully balance accessibility and professional rigor and align with national standards.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report contain specific, actionable recommendations to do all of the following:

- (1) Incentivize growth of the speech-language pathology assistant workforce.
- (2) Reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens.
- (3) Maintain or enhance professional quality, ethics, and patient outcomes.
- (4) Improve this state's competitiveness in attracting and retaining qualified professionals.
- (5) Proposed statutory or regulatory changes, if warranted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in developing recommendations, the entities shall ensure that any proposed reforms do not dilute the rigor, professionalism, or quality standards; preserve appropriate supervision and patient safety safeguards; and reflect stakeholder consensus, if feasible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology shall submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the House and Senate committees on health and welfare no later than February 1, 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the executive director of the Louisiana Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, the secretary of the state Department of Education, and the president of the Louisiana Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES