
DIGEST

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HB 442 Engrossed

2025 Regular Session

Henry

Abstract: Provides relative to qualifications and disciplinary measures for licensees of audiology and speech-language pathology.

Present law defines audiologist, board, licensed audiologist, licensed speech-language pathologist, licensed speech-language pathology assistant, person, practice of audiology, practice of speech-language pathology, provisional license, provisional speech-language pathology assistant license, restricted license, and speech-language pathologist.

Proposed law adds "ABA", "ASHA", "over-the-counter hearing aid", "personal sound amplification product", "prescription hearing aid", and "telehealth or telepractice" to the list of definitions and amends the definition of "practice of audiology". Proposed law otherwise retains present law.

Present law provides that no individual shall be eligible for licensure by the board as an audiologist, unless the individual is of good moral character.

Proposed law clarifies the definition of "good moral character".

Present law requires the board to issue licenses under certain special conditions. One of those conditions provided for in present law is that the board shall waive, upon request, the examination requirements for any applicant who is currently certified by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education as a specialist of speech-language pathology and currently employed in a school setting.

Proposed law instead allows the board to waive clinical practicum requirements for applicants who hold certification from the American Board of Audiology and have completed the national examination requirement.

Present law provides that when the board is authorized to discipline an individual, the board may impose, separately or in combination, any of the following disciplinary actions:

- (1) Refuse to issue or renew a license or registration.
- (2) Issue a public letter of reprimand or concern.
- (3) Require restitution of costs and expenses, not to include attorney fees, in connection with the enforcement of this present law.

- (4) Impose probationary conditions.
- (5) Impose a fine for each violation not to exceed \$1,000.
- (6) Suspend or revoke a license or registration.
- (7) Restrict the license by limiting or reducing the scope of practice.
- (8) Otherwise discipline a licensee or registrant upon proof of violations of any provisions of present law.
- (9) Issue a consent agreement and order.

Proposed law instead provides that the board is authorized to impose any of the aforementioned disciplinary actions if the individual violates the provisions of present law. Proposed law also allows for the collection of attorney fees if the board decides to require restitution of costs and expenses in connection with the enforcement of present law.

Proposed law otherwise retains present law.

Directs the La. State Law Institute to alphabetize and renumber the definitions contained in R.S. 37:2651 and to correct any cross-references that may need to be changed as a result of this renumbering.

(Amends R.S. 37:2651(1), (3), and (7)(a), (b), and (g), 2659(A)(intro. para.) and (1), 2660(3), 2662(C)(intro. para.) and (3); Adds R.S. 37:2651(13)-(18); Repeals R.S. 37:2651(7)(e) and (f))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill:

1. Define "telehealth" or "telepractice".
2. Remove the authorization for an audiologist to engage in any task, procedure, act, or practice that is necessary for any basic health screening, for which one has been trained, with referral to an appropriate healthcare professional.
3. Restore present law requirement of a physician referral for certain audiology services.