

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 387

BY REPRESENTATIVE CHASSION

SPEECH/PATH/AUDIO: Requests the Louisiana Board of Examiners for Speech-Language and Pathology and Audiology to study and report on current licensure and regulatory requirements for speech-language assistants in Louisiana

1 A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 1 (a) Workforce supply and demand trends.
- 2 (b) Access to services in rural and underserved areas.
- 3 (c) Retention and career advancement pathways.
- 4 (d) Impact of regulatory structures on service delivery capacity.
- 5 (4) An assessment of regulatory burden including identification of requirements that
- 6 may unnecessarily limit entry into the profession and administrative or procedural barriers
- 7 to licensure or practice.
- 8 (5) An analysis of best practices including models that successfully balance
- 9 accessibility and professional rigor and align with national standards.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report contain specific, actionable

11 recommendations to do all of the following:

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

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in developing recommendations, the entities

19 shall ensure that any proposed reforms do not dilute the rigor, professionalism, or quality

20 standards; preserve appropriate supervision and patient safety safeguards; and reflect

21 stakeholder consensus, if feasible.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Board of Examiners for Speech-

23 Language Pathology and Audiology shall submit a written report of its findings and

24 recommendations to the House and Senate committees on health and welfare no later than

25 February 1, 2027.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the

27 executive director of the Louisiana Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and

28 Audiology, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, the secretary of the state

29 Department of Education, and the president of the Louisiana Speech-Language-Hearing

30 Association.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Requests the La. Bd. of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, in conjunction with stakeholders, to study licensure and regulatory requirements for speech-language pathology assistants in this state.