

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 829

(Senator Conway)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists - Licensure Exemption - Clinical Training

This bill establishes an additional exemption from licensure requirements under the State Board of Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, and Speech-Language Pathologists. An individual who is licensed to practice audiology or speech-language pathology in another state or foreign country does not need to be licensed by the board to (1) provide a clinical demonstration at a training or educational event in the State or (2) receive clinical training at a training or educational event in the State.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not directly affect State governmental finances.

Local Effect: The bill does not directly affect local governmental finances.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: In general, an individual must be licensed by the board before the individual may practice audiology, provide hearing aid services, or practice speech-language pathology, with specified exceptions. A person may not assist, attempt to assist, or offer to assist in the practice of speech-language pathology unless licensed by the board. A license to practice speech-language pathology as an assistant authorizes the licensee to practice within board-established limitations while the license is effective.

An individual hired by a Maryland local public school system, State-approved nonpublic school for handicapped children, or chartered educational institution of the State to practice

speech-language pathology or assist in the practice of speech-language pathology must be licensed by the board. However, there are several exceptions including (1) a federal employee performing the duties of federal employment; (2) an individual who has continuously practiced speech-language pathology at specified educational facilities for a specified period of time; (3) a student or trainee in audiology or speech-language pathology who is pursuing a supervised course of study at an accredited educational institution while obtaining clinical practicum hours; or (4) a volunteer who is working in free speech and hearing screening programs.

The board may allow an audiologist, hearing aid dispenser, speech-language pathologist, or speech-language pathology assistant licensed in another state to practice in Maryland without a license if that individual has a completed application for licensure pending before the board.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

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min/jc

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