

AN ACT

relating to educational requirements for licensing as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subsection (a), Section 401.304, Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) To be eligible for licensing as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist, an applicant must:

(1) if the application is for a license in:

(A) speech-language pathology, possess at least a master's degree with a major in at least one of the areas of communicative sciences or disorders from a program accredited by a national accrediting organization that is approved by the board and recognized by the United States secretary of education under the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. Section 1001 et seq.) [the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association] in an accredited or approved college or university; or

(B) audiology, possess at least a doctoral degree in audiology or a related hearing science from a program accredited by a national accrediting organization that is approved by the board and recognized by the United States secretary of education under the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. Section 1001 et seq.) in an accredited or approved college or university;

(2) submit a transcript from a public or private

1 institution of higher learning showing successful completion of
2 course work in amounts set by the board in:

3 (A) normal development and use of speech,
4 language, and hearing;

5 (B) evaluation, habilitation, and rehabilitation
6 of speech, language, and hearing disorders; and

7 (C) related fields that augment the work of
8 clinical practitioners of speech-language pathology and audiology;

9 (3) have successfully completed at least 36 semester
10 hours in courses that are acceptable toward a graduate degree by the
11 college or university in which the courses are taken, at least 24 of
12 which must be in the professional area for which the license is
13 requested and at least six of which must be:

14 (A) in audiology if the application is for a
15 speech-language pathology license; or

16 (B) in speech-language pathology if the
17 application is for an audiology license;

18 (4) have completed the minimum number of hours,
19 established by the board, of supervised clinical experience with
20 persons who present a variety of communication disorders; and

21 (5) have completed the full-time supervised
22 professional experience, as defined by board rule, in which
23 clinical work has been accomplished in the major professional area
24 for which the license is being sought.

25 SECTION 2. (a) Section 401.304, Occupations Code, as
26 amended by this Act, applies only to a person who applies for a
27 speech-language pathologist or audiologist license on or after the

1 effective date of this Act. A person who applies for a license
2 before that date is governed by the law in effect immediately before
3 the effective date of this Act, and the former law is continued in
4 effect for that purpose.

5 (b) A person who holds a license as an audiologist issued
6 before the effective date of this Act may continue to renew that
7 license without complying with the change in law made by this Act to
8 Subsection (a), Section 401.304, Occupations Code.

9 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 613 passed the Senate on April 21, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 613 passed the House on May 19, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 148, Nays 0, one present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor