By:  Paxton S.B. No. 466

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the licensing and regulation of speech-language

pathologists and audiologists.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 401.201, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Subsection (b) to read as follows:

(b)  Notwithstanding any other law, in adopting a rule under this chapter, the commission:

(1)  shall authorize:

(A)  a license holder, including a licensed intern or licensed assistant, to provide services by use of any interactive audiovisual communication system, whether real-time or two-way, including a smart phone; and

(B)  any supervision requirement for an applicant under this chapter to be fulfilled wholly or partly by use of telecommunications technology; and

(2)  may not:

(A)  require a license holder 's initial professional contact with a client to be in-person; or

(B)  impose any limitation on a license holder 's selection of a facilitator to assist the license holder in providing services by use of telecommunications technology.

SECTION 2.  This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, the Act takes effect September 1, 2021.