

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

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1 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, the
3 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.