

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 332

H. P. 280

House of Representatives, January 23, 1975

Referred to the Committee on Business Legislation. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Fraser of Mexico.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

AN ACT to Provide for Staggered Licensing of Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Sec. 1. 32 MRSA, § 1658-E, first ¶, as amended by PL 1971, c. 327, § 6, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

The department shall register each applicant without discrimination who satisfactorily passes an examination as provided in section 1658-F and upon the applicant's payment of \$100 shall issue to the applicant a license signed by the Director of Health. The license shall be effective for a period of 24 months.

Sec. 2. 32 MRSA, § 1658-J, first sentence, as amended by PL 1971, c. 327, § 10, is further amended to read:

Each person who engages in the fitting and sale of hearing aids shall biennially, ~~on or before January 30th~~ according to regulations established by the department, submit to the department an application for a renewal of his license, accompanied by a fee of \$50.

Sec. 3. 32 MRSA, § 1658-J, 4th sentence, as enacted by PL 1969, c. 320, is amended to read:

A 30-day grace period shall be allowed after ~~January 30th~~ the date of expiration, during which time licenses may be renewed on payment of a fee of \$100 to the department.

Sec. 4. 32 MRSA, § 1659, sub-§ 1, ¶¶ K and L, are enacted to read:

K. During the 2-year period following passage of this Act, to redistribute the expiration dates of the existing licenses so that an equal number expire in each month of the year, thus allowing for distributing the work of relicensure evenly throughout the year;

L. To notify license holders no less than 30 days prior to the expiration of their licenses and provide them with any necessary relicensure forms.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The clerical and supportive work associated with the operation of the Board of Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters is currently performed by the Bureau of Health, Department of Health and Welfare. All of these licenses, along with several other one-time activities, come due on or about the first of the year at a time when professional and clerical staff are also unusually busy due to the holidays, to preparation and submission of budgets, to legislation and to other year-end activities. This bill would change the existing laws to allow for this licensure process to be staggered throughout the year and thus would evenly distribute the workload. It would permit the development of a single efficient unit for all professional licensure activities in the bureau by administrative action. It can be managed in such a way as to not increase the cost of licensure for any individual applicant.