

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
107TH LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 673, L.D. 2144, Bill,
"AN ACT to Provide for the Licensure of Speech Pathologists and
Audiologists."

Amend said Bill in section 4 in that part designated
"§6010." by striking out all of the first paragraph and inserting
in place thereof the following:

'There is created the Board of Examiners on Speech Pathology
and Audiology to consist of 7 members who shall be appointed by
the Governor. All members shall have been residents of this State
for at least one year immediately preceding their appointment.
Two members shall have been engaged full time in the practice of
speech pathology for at least one year immediately preceding their
appointment. Two members shall have been engaged full time in the
practice of audiology for at least one year immediately preceding
their appointment. All such professional members shall at all
times be holders of valid licenses for the practice of speech pa-
thology or audiology, except for the 4 members first appointed,
each of whom shall be the holder of a nationally recognized certi-
ficate of clinical competence in speech pathology or audiology or
its equivalent. The additional members shall consist of a hearing
aid dealer and fitter licensed pursuant to Chapter 23-A, a physi-
cian, licensed pursuant to Chapter 48, with specialized training
in the field of otolaryngology, and a representative of the public.'

Further amend said Bill in section 4 by striking out all of that part designated "§6013." and inserting in place thereof the following:

'§6013. Power and duties

The Board of Examiners on Speech Pathology and Audiology shall have the powers and duties set forth in this section.

1. Board to administer, coordinate and enforce. The board shall administer, coordinate and enforce this chapter, evaluate the qualifications and supervise the examinations of applicants for licensure under this chapter and shall, at its discretion, investigate allegations of practices violating this chapter.

2. Rules and regulations. The board may adopt rules and regulations commensurate with this chapter including, but not limited to, rules and regulations relating to professional conduct and establishing ethical standards of practice. The rules and regulations adopted by the board shall govern and control the professional conduct of every person who holds a license to practice speech pathology and audiology in this State. The board, at its first meeting after its appointment, may adopt temporary rules and regulations to be in effect for no longer than 6 months. Thereafter, the board may adopt rules and regulations only after a public hearing. Such public hearing shall be held only after sending, at least 14 days prior to the date of such hearing, a copy of all proposed rules and regulations and a written notice of and agenda

for such hearing to all persons licensed under this chapter. A copy of all rules and regulations adopted by vote of the board after such hearing shall be sent forthwith to all persons licensed under this chapter. Such rules and regulations shall not take effect until 30 days after the date of such vote.

3. Hearings. The board shall conduct such hearings and keep such records and minutes as are necessary to the ordinary dispatch of its functions. The board shall provide written notice of the time, place and subject of such hearing to all parties whose interests are to be dealt with at such hearings at least 7 days in advance of such hearing, except as provided in subsection 2.

4. Reports. Not later than August 1st of each year, the board shall submit to the Commissioner of Business Regulation for the preceding fiscal year ending June 30th an annual report of its operations and financial position, together with such comments and recommendations as the board deems essential.'

Further amend said Bill in section 4 in that part designated "§6027." by striking out all of the first paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following:

'Licenses issued under this chapter expire biennially and become invalid at midnight, January 31st of every other year, or at such other times as the Commissioner of Business Regulation may designate, if not renewed. Every person licensed under this chapter shall, on or before the biennial expiration date, pay a fee for renewal of license to the board. The board shall notify every person licensed under this chapter of the date of expiration of his

license and the amount of fee required for its renewal for a 2-year period. The notice shall be mailed to such person's last known address at least 30 days in advance of the expiration of such license. No person who requests renewal of license, whose license has expired, shall be required to submit to examination as a condition to renewal, if such renewal application is made within 2 years from the date of such expiration. Renewals are contingent upon evidence of participation in continuing professional education, such as attending professional meetings and regional inservice programs, as determined by the board.'

Further amend said Bill in section 4 in that part designated "§6028." by striking out all of the first paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following:

'Every person to whom an initial license is issued pursuant to this chapter shall pay a license fee of \$25. The fee for a temporary license shall be \$25. The fee for biennial renewal of a license shall be \$50. The board may, by regulation, provide for the waiver of all or part of the fee for an initial license if it is issued less than 120 days before the date on which it will expire. When the unexpired term of an initial license of an applicant is or will be more than one year at time of licensure, the board may, by regulation, require such applicants to pay an additional fee not to exceed 1/2 the biennial renewal fee. The fee for an examination shall be an amount established by the board, not to exceed \$25.'

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Statement of Fact

The first part of the amendment which amends section 6010 provides that the 4 professional members of the board shall consist of 2 speech pathologists and 2 audiologists, instead of, as the bill states, 2 speech pathologists, one audiologist and a 4th member who is one or the other. The amendment also clarifies the wording of the paragraph and corrects a printing error.

The 2nd part of the amendment which amends section 6013 provides that rules and regulations may be adopted only on special notice to all licensed persons and a public hearing/ ^{held.} It also requires the board to report annually to the Commissioner of Business Regulation since the board is within the central licensing bureau.

The last 2 parts of the amendment make the sections consistent with language proposed for other boards that are now included in the Department of Business Regulation's central licensing bureau.

Reported by the majority of the Committee on Business Legislation.

Reproduced and distributed pursuant to Senate Rule 11-A.

March 22, 1976.

(Filing No. S-461).