

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

Legislative Document


No. 152

H.P. 110

House of Representatives, January 25, 1993

**An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Certification of Professional
Speech and Language Therapists.**

Reference to the Committee on Education suggested and ordered printed.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative SPEAR of Nobleboro.

Cosponsored by Senator BEGLEY of Lincoln, Representatives AULT of Wayne, BRUNO of Raymond, NORTON of Winthrop, SIMONDS of Cape Elizabeth.

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

4 Sec. 1. 20-A MRS §13019-F is enacted to read:

6 **§13019-F. Speech and language certificates**

8 Speech and language certificates must be issued and renewed
10 in accordance with rules of the state board adopted pursuant to
12 this chapter. Certification standards adopted by the state board
14 in compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education
16 Act of 1990, 20 United States Code, Sections 1400-1485, must
18 include a master's degree or its equivalent in speech pathology
20 or any area that the state board determines is equivalent, if
22 that standard meets the requirements of 34 Code of Federal
24 Regulations, 300.153 (1992).

26 Speech and language clinicians who hold valid certificates
28 issued prior to September 30, 1993, have until July 1, 2015 to
30 satisfy the requirements of certification standards adopted by
32 the state board to comply with the Individuals with Disabilities
34 Education Act of 1990.

36 The department shall offer, annually, at least 4 and not
38 more than 6 courses designed to help speech and language
40 clinicians, who hold certificates issued prior to September 30,
42 1993, satisfy the requirements of certification standards adopted
44 by the state board to comply with the Individuals with
46 Disabilities Education Act of 1990.

48 The department shall review and accept, at no charge, all
50 course work successfully completed by speech and language
clinicians certified prior to September 30, 1993, if the course
work satisfies certification requirements.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill requires the State Board of Education to adopt certification requirements for speech and language clinicians that include a master's degree or its equivalent in speech pathology or a master's degree or its equivalent in a related area if those requirements meet standards established by federal law. The bill requires the state board to establish rules that give speech and language clinicians with valid certificates issued prior to September 30, 1993, until July 1, 2015 to meet new certification requirements.

This bill also requires the Commissioner of Education to offer, annually, 4 to 6 courses designed to help speech and language clinicians with valid certificates issued prior to

September 30, 1993 meet new certification requirements and
2 requires the department to review and accept, at no cost, all
4 course work that meets certification requirements submitted by
those certificate holders.