

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

Legislative Document

No. 281

H.P. 221

House of Representatives, February 2, 2009

**An Act To Amend the Licensing Requirements for Speech-language
Pathology Assistants**

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development suggested
and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative FLOOD of Winthrop.
Cosponsored by Senator GOOLEY of Franklin.

1 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** existing language in the laws governing the licensing of speech-language
4 pathology assistants is preventing otherwise qualified individuals from practicing; and

5 **Whereas,** this legislation corrects that language; and

6 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
7 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
8 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
9 therefore,

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

11 **Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §17101, sub-§16,** as enacted by PL 2007, c. 369, Pt. C, §3 and
12 affected by §5, is amended to read:

13 **16. Speech-language pathology assistant.** "Speech-language pathology assistant"
14 means an individual who meets minimum qualifications that the board may establish for
15 speech-language pathology assistants, that are less than those qualifications established
16 by this chapter for licensure as a speech-language pathologist, but must include an
17 associate's associate degree or its equivalent as determined by the board, or a higher
18 degree in the field of communication disorders.

19 **Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §17103, sub-§6,** as enacted by PL 2007, c. 369, Pt. C, §3 and
20 affected by §5, is amended to read:

21 **6. Speech-language pathology assistants.** ~~Registration~~ Licensure may be granted to
22 an individual who meets the minimum qualifications for a speech-language pathology
23 assistant established by the board and who is supervised by a licensed speech-language
24 pathologist, as set forth by the board by rule. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection
25 are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

26 **Sec. 3. 32 MRSA §17301, sub-§5,** as enacted by PL 2007, c. 369, Pt. C, §3 and
27 affected by §5, is amended to read:

28 **5. Speech-language pathology assistant.** A speech-language pathology assistant
29 must have an ~~associate's~~ associate degree or a higher degree from an accredited
30 institution in the field of communication disorders, or its equivalent as determined by the
31 board, and must meet such other minimum qualifications as the board may establish,
32 except that an applicant for licensure as a speech-language pathology assistant who has
33 obtained a bachelor of science degree in the field of communication disorders is exempt
34 from any practicum requirements that are applicable to applicants who hold associate
35 degrees.

36 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this
37 legislation takes effect when approved.

SUMMARY

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This bill specifically provides that an applicant for licensure as a speech-language pathology assistant may hold a degree higher than an associate degree and exempts applicants holding a bachelor of science degree from any practicum requirements that may be applicable to applicants who hold associate degrees.