



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

Olds Plaza Building, 10th Floor
Lansing, Michigan 48909
Phone: 517/373-6466

LICENSE SPEECH PATHOLOGISTS

**House Bills 4495 and 4496
Sponsor: Rep. David M. Gubow
Committee: Public Health**

Complete to 3-19-91

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILLS 4495 AND 4496 AS INTRODUCED

House Bill 4495 would add a new section to the Public Health Code to license and regulate speech pathologists and audiologists and to prohibit the practice of either specialty without the appropriate license; House Bill 4496 would set the fees for applicants and licensees.

House Bill 4495. Audiologists and speech-language pathologists each would have a separate license, though individuals who met the requirements for both licenses could get a license to practice both specialties. Speech-language pathologists and audiologists would be prohibited from any areas of practice in their respective fields for which they did not have adequate education and training. Certified teachers of the speech-language impaired also would be required to be licensed in one of the two specialties.

Definitions. The bill would define both the practice of audiology, which deals with hearing and hearing disorders, and that of "speech-language pathology," which deals with speech and language disorders. The practice of both specialties would include the rehabilitation and counseling of hearing-impaired people and their families and the screening of people for communication disorders (including hearing evaluations).

Under the bill, the practice of audiology also would involve:

- * developing and implementing programs for the workplace and elsewhere to protect hearing;
- * "screening, identifying, assessing and interpreting, diagnosing, preventing, and rehabilitating" hearing problems;
- * providing and interpreting hearing tests; and
- * selecting, fitting, dispensing, and training people in the use of devices to help hearing.

The practice of speech-language pathology also would include:

- * "enhancing speech-language proficiency and communication effectiveness;"
- * diagnosing and rehabilitating "cognitive and communication disorders;"
- * "screening, identifying, assessing and interpreting, diagnosing, and rehabilitating" both speech disorders and physical problems of the mouth and throat; and
- * assessing, selecting, developing, dispensing, and training people in the use of "augmentative and alternative" communication systems.

Board, license requirements. The bill would create a nine-member board of speech-language pathology and audiology in the Department of Public Health. The board would

consist of three speech-language pathologists (one working in a public school), three audiologists, and three public members. The members would have to meet the health code's general requirements for licensing board members (good moral character, 18 years of age or older, and so forth).

The board would have to require by rule that people granted licenses as audiologists or speech-language pathologists meet certain requirements, including:

- * at least a master's degree in audiology or speech-language pathology,
- * successful completion of board-determined college or university course work,
- * supervised clinical experience,
- * passing the appropriate national examination, and,
- * after getting a limited license, a supervised post-graduate professional experience.

"Grandparent" provision. The board would have to grant a license to anyone who had practiced audiology or speech-language pathology for at least one of the two years immediately before--and who applied for a license within a year after--the bill took effect.

Exemptions. The bill would exempt a number of people from its licensing requirements, including:

- * members of other professions legally practicing their professions, so long as they did not claim to be licensed audiologists or speech-language pathologists;
- * college or university researchers or teachers of communication disorders, so long as they did not claim to be licensed audiologists or speech-language pathologists or practice these specialties;
- * employees in Department of Public Health hearing screening training programs who conducted screening of hearing sensitivity; and
- * people certified by Occupation Health Standards Commission-approved agencies engaged in hearing screening under the Michigan Occupation Safety and Health Act standards.

Title protection. The following titles would be legally protected (i.e. could be legally used only by licensed audiologists or speech-language pathologists):

- * communication disorders specialist;
- * communication disorders therapist;
- * aphasiologist;
- * audiometrist;
- * audiologist;
- * communicologist;
- * hearing therapist;
- * hearing aid audiologist;
- * language pathologist;
- * logopedist;
- * phoniatrix;
- * speech clinician;
- * speech correctionist;
- * speech pathologist;
- * speech therapist;

- * speech-language pathologist;
- * voice pathologist;
- * voice therapist;
- * teachers of the speech and language impaired;
- * education audiologist;
- * industrial audiologist; and
- * clinical audiologist.

MCL 333.16131 et al.

House Bill 4496 (MCL 338.2256), which would add a new section to the State License Fee Act, would set the following fees: An application processing fee of \$20, an annual license fee of \$50, an annual dual license fee of \$75, a temporary license fee of \$20, and a limited license fee of \$25.



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CLARIFY LIQUOR VIOLATIONS

House Bill 4317

Sponsor: Rep. Jan Dolan

Committee: Liquor Control

Complete to 4-15-91

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4317 AS INTRODUCED 2-15-91

The bill would amend two provisions in the Michigan Liquor Control Act that deal with the revocation and suspension of retail liquor licenses for improper sales.

(1) The act allows a local legislative body to request the Liquor Control Commission (LCC) to revoke the take-out license of a business that has sold alcohol to underage customers on at least three separate occasions "in a single calendar year" if the violations did not involve false or fraudulent identification. (The LCC can choose whether or not to revoke or suspend the license.) The bill would make the act refer instead to three violations "in a 12-month period" and specify that the date on which the defendant committed a violation "is controlling in determining whether 3 violations have occurred in a 12-month period."

(2) The act requires the LCC to suspend or revoke a retail license if a licensee is found liable within a 24-month period for 3 or more separate violations involving the sale of alcohol to an underage person or to a visibly intoxicated person. The bill would, as above, specify that the date on which a violation occurred would be controlling in determining whether 3 violations had occurred in 24 months.

MCL 436.17 and 436.20