

Substitute HOUSE BILL No. 2659

AN ACT relating to speech-language pathologists and audiologists; amending K.S.A. 65-6501, 65-6502 and 65-6503 and repealing the existing sections.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. K.S.A. 65-6501 is hereby amended to read as follows: 65-6501. As used in this act, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them in this section:

- (a) “Secretary” means the secretary of ~~health and environment~~ *aging*.
- (b) “Speech-language pathology” means the application of principles, methods and procedures related to the development and disorders of human communication. Disorders include any and all conditions, whether of organic or nonorganic origin, that impede the normal process of human communication including disorders and related disorders of speech, articulation, fluency, voice, verbal and written language, auditory comprehension, cognition/communication, and oral pharyngeal or laryngeal sensorimotor competencies, or both. Speech-language pathology does not mean diagnosis or treatment of medical conditions as defined by K.S.A. 65-2869, and amendments thereto.
- (c) “Practice of speech-language pathology” means:
 - (1) Rendering or offering to render to individuals or groups of individuals who have or are suspected of having disorders of communication, any service in speech-language pathology including prevention, identification, evaluation, consultation, habilitation and rehabilitation;
 - (2) determining the need for personal augmentative communication systems, recommending such systems and providing training in utilization of such systems; and
 - (3) planning, directing, conducting or supervising such services.
- (d) “Speech-language pathologist” means a person who engages in the practice of speech-language pathology and who meets the qualifications set forth in this act.
- (e) “Audiology” means the application of principles, methods and procedures related to hearing and the disorders of hearing and to related language and speech disorders. Disorders include any and all conditions, whether of organic or nonorganic origin, peripheral or central, that impede the normal process of human communication including, but not limited to, disorders of auditory sensitivity, acuity, function or processing. Audiology does not mean diagnosis or treatment of medical conditions as defined by K.S.A. 65-2869, and amendments thereto.
- (f) “Practice of audiology” means:
 - (1) Rendering or offering to render to individuals or groups of individuals who have or are suspected of having disorders of hearing, any service in audiology, including prevention, identification, evaluation, consultation and habilitation or rehabilitation (other than hearing aid or other assistive listening device dispensing);
 - (2) participating in hearing conservation;
 - (3) providing auditory training and speech reading;
 - (4) conducting tests of vestibular function;
 - (5) evaluating tinnitus; and
 - (6) planning, directing, conducting or supervising services.
- (g) “Audiologist” means any person who engages in the practice of audiology and who meets the qualifications set forth in this act.
- (h) “Speech-language pathology assistant” means an individual who meets minimum qualifications established by the secretary which are less than those established by this act as necessary for licensing as a speech-language pathologist; does not act independently; and works under the direction and supervision of a speech-language pathologist licensed under this act.
- (i) “Audiology assistant” means an individual who meets minimum qualifications established by the secretary, which are less than those established by this act as necessary for licensing as an audiologist; does not act independently; and works under the direction and supervision of an audiologist licensed under this act.
- (j) “Sponsor” means entities approved by the secretary of ~~health and environment~~ *aging* to provide continuing education programs or courses on an ongoing basis under this act and in accordance with any rules and regulations promulgated by the secretary in accordance with this act.

Sec. 2. K.S.A. 65-6502 is hereby amended to read as follows: 65-6502.

- (a) There is hereby established a speech-language pathology and audiol-

ogy board. Such board shall be advisory to the secretary ~~of health and environment~~ in all matters concerning standards, rules and regulations and all matters relating to this act.

(b) The board shall be composed of five persons appointed by the secretary who have been residents of this state for at least two years. Two members shall be licensed, or initially eligible for licensure, as speech-language pathologists; one member shall be licensed, or initially eligible for licensure, as an audiologist; one member shall be a person licensed to practice medicine and surgery; and one member shall be a member of the general public who is not a health care provider. The secretary may make appointments from a list submitted by professional organizations representing speech pathologists and audiologists.

(c) Members of the board attending meetings of such board or attending a subcommittee meeting thereof authorized by such board shall be paid amounts provided in subsection (e) of K.S.A. 75-3223, and amendments thereto.

(d) Board members shall be appointed for a term of two years and until their successors are appointed and qualified, except that of the initial appointments, which shall be made within 60 days after the effective date of this act, two members first appointed, as specified by the secretary, shall serve on the board for terms of one year and thereafter, upon expiration of such one-year terms, successors shall be appointed in the same manner as the original appointments. The chairperson of the board shall be elected annually from among the members of the board. Whenever a vacancy occurs on the board by reason other than the expiration of a term of office, the secretary shall appoint a successor of like qualifications for the remainder of the unexpired term. No person shall be appointed to serve more than ~~two~~ *three* successive two-year terms.

(e) Appointments to fill vacancies shall be made in the same manner as original appointments for the unexpired portion of the term. The secretary may terminate the appointment of any member for cause which in the opinion of the secretary reasonably justifies such termination.

Sec. 3. K.S.A. 65-6503 is hereby amended to read as follows: 65-6503.

(a) The secretary shall:

~~(a)~~(1) Issue to each person who has met the education and training requirements listed in K.S.A. 65-6505, and amendments thereto and such other reasonable qualifications as may be established by rules and regulations promulgated by the secretary, the appropriate license as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist;

~~(b)~~(2) establish by rules and regulations the methods and procedures for examination of candidates for licensure;

~~(c)~~(3) appoint employees necessary to administer this act and fix their compensation within the limits of appropriations made for that purpose;

~~(d)~~(4) keep a record of the board's proceedings and a register of all applicants for and recipients of licenses; and

~~(e)~~(5) make all such reasonable rules and regulations as deemed necessary to carry out and enforce the provisions of this act.

(b) *All rules and regulations, orders and directives of the secretary of health and environment concerning speech-language pathologists and audiologists in existence on the effective date of this act shall continue to be effective and shall be deemed to be duly adopted rules and regulations, orders and directives of the secretary of aging until revised, amended, revoked or nullified pursuant to law.*

(c) *All records of the department of health and environment concerning speech-language pathologists and audiologists in existence on the effective date of this act are hereby transferred to the secretary of aging.*

(d) *Whenever a reference or designation is made to the department of health and environment concerning speech-language pathologists or audiologists by a contract or other document, such reference or designation shall be deemed to apply to the secretary of aging.*

Sec. 4. K.S.A. 65-6501, 65-6502 and 65-6503 are hereby repealed.

Sec. 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.

I hereby certify that the above BILL originated in the HOUSE, and passed that body

HOUSE concurred in
SENATE amendments _____

Speaker of the House.

Chief Clerk of the House.

Passed the SENATE
as amended _____

President of the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate.

APPROVED _____

Governor.