

SCS SB 107 -- PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION

This bill allows any board or commission within the Division of Professional Registration in the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration to issue, at its discretion, oral or written opinions addressing topics relating to the qualifications, functions, or duties of any profession licensed by the specific board or commission issuing the guidance. Any opinion is for educational purposes only, is in no way binding on the licensee, and cannot be used as the basis for any discipline against a licensee. The bill specifies that a board or commission may not address topics relating to the qualifications, functions, or duties of any profession licensed by a different board or commission.

The bill changes the laws regarding speech-language pathologists, speech-language pathology assistants, and audiologists. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Allows a speech-language pathology assistant to work under the direction and supervision of a licensed speech-language pathologist practicing for at least one year or a speech-language pathologist who is either employed by a federal agency or licensed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for at least one year;

(2) Requires an applicant for registration with the Board of Registration for the Healing Arts within the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration as a speech-language pathology assistant to furnish evidence of his or her completion of bachelor's level course work and clinical requirements in the field of speech-language pathology as established by the board. Currently, an applicant must furnish evidence that he or she holds a bachelor's degree in speech-language pathology and has completed clinical practicum requirements equivalent to that required by a regional accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education or its equivalent;

(3) Repeals the provision requiring a corporation or organization engaged in the business of speech-language pathology or audiology who employs a licensed speech-language pathologist or audiologist to file a statement with the board specifying that it submits itself to the rules and regulations of the board;

(4) Specifies that the licensing requirements do not apply to a person who holds a current valid certificate as a speech-language pathologist issued by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education prior to January 1, 2016, who is an employee of a public

school or to any person completing the required clinical hours as long as he or she is under the direct supervision of a licensed speech-language pathologist and has not completed more than the number of clinical hours required by rule;

(5) Repeals the provisions requiring an applicant for licensure as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist to present written evidence of completion of a specified clinical fellowship;

(6) Specifies that following an administrative hearing proceeding and a finding that the grounds for disciplinary action have been met, the board may also restrict or limit the person's ability to practice for an indefinite period of time;

(7) Prohibits a person who has served as a member of the Advisory Commission for Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists for two consecutive terms from being reappointed until a lapse of at least two years has occurred following the completion of the person's two consecutive terms; and

(8) Repeals the provisions allowing a person to hold a provisional license to practice speech-language pathology or audiology.