Report to the Legislature

Hearing Aid Specialist

Work-Based Learning Permit Recommendations

December 2014

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Executive Summary

In 2014, the Washington State Legislature passed Engrossed House Bill (EHB) 2108. The bill amended chapter 18.35 RCW by changing the “hearing instrument fitter/dispenser” license to a “hearing aid specialist” license. The bill created an additional pathway to licensure that requires:

- A two-year or four-year degree in a field of study approved by the Board of Hearing and Speech (board) from an accredited institution;
- Completion of a nine-month board-approved certificate program offered by a board-approved hearing aid specialist program; and
- Practical and written examinations approved by the board.

The legislation required the Department of Health, with the board and representatives from the community and technical colleges, to review the opportunity to establish an interim work-based learning permit, or similar apprenticeship opportunity. The permit or apprenticeship opportunity is to provide an additional licensing pathway for hearing aid specialist applicants to meet licensure requirements. The legislation directed the workgroup to consider these objectives:

- The opportunity to provide a work-based learning permit for applicants that either have a two-year or four-year degree in a field of study approved by the board from an accredited institution of higher education, or are currently enrolled in a two-year or four-year degree program in a field of study approved by the board in an accredited institution of higher education with no more than one full-time academic year remaining in his or her course of study;
- The criteria for providing a designation of a board-approved licensed hearing aid specialist or board-approved licensed audiologist to act as the applicant’s supervisor;
- The recommended duration of an interim work-based learning permit or apprenticeship;
- Recommendations for a work-based learning permit or apprenticeship and opportunities to offer a program through a partnership with a private business and/or through a partnership with accredited institutions of higher education and a sponsoring private business;
- Recommendations for the learning pathways or academic components that should be required in any work-based learning program, including the specific training elements that must be completed, including, but not limited to, audiometric testing, counseling regarding hearing examinations, hearing instrument selection, ear mold impressions, hearing instrument fitting and follow-up care, and business practices including ethics, regulations, and sanitation and infection control; and
- Recommendations for the direct supervision of a work-based learning permit or apprenticeship, including the number of persons a hearing aid specialist or audiologist may supervise, and other considerations.

The workgroup met on June 24, July 1, and August 1, 2014. The workgroup reviewed the provisions of the nine-month certification pathway established by EHB 2108 and determined that the board may consider programs offered by board-approved hearing aid specialist programs, which could include accredited schools and other hearing aid specialist programs. The board has
existing rules that allow students who are enrolled in board-approved programs to perform the duties of a hearing aid specialist in the course of their training and under appropriate supervision. Approved programs offering two-year degrees in hearing instrument instruction currently partner with licensed hearing aid specialists or audiologists to provide work-based training to students in their programs. The workgroup determined that as long as the nine-month certification programs are board-approved, the programs could incorporate a work-based component without having to provide a work-based learning permit. The nine-month certification programs create alternate paths to licensure with sufficient board oversight. The workgroup, therefore, does not recommend creating a work-based learning permit or an apprenticeship.

Because the workgroup is not recommending a work-based learning permit or an apprenticeship, all other objectives the workgroup was asked to consider were reviewed in relation to board-approved hearing aid specialist programs. This included two-year degree programs in hearing instrument sciences and potential nine-month certification programs. The workgroup recommends setting standards in rule and clarifying existing rules related to:

- Approval of all hearing aid specialist programs;
- Minimum qualifications of supervisors;
- Duration and minimum number of hours of work-based training;
- Academic components that should be required of board-approved programs;
- Direct and indirect supervision requirements; and
- The maximum number of students supervisors can train simultaneously.

The workgroup considered recommending approved fields of study for two-year and four-year degree applicants who will complete the nine-month certification pathway to obtain licensure. The workgroup recommends approval of four-year degrees in any field of study from accredited institutions, as these degrees incorporate general education requirements. The workgroup recommends approval of two-year degrees with the completion of an Associate of Science (AS) or Associate of Arts (AA) degree from an accredited institution. AS and AA degrees from accredited institutions ensure students attain minimum core competencies to make them “college ready” to enter a nine-month certification program. Other degrees may be approved by the board. The nine-month certifications are intensive study specific to hearing aid specialist instruction.

The workgroup discussed the possibility of an interim permit being available for hearing aid specialists who have completed all educational requirements except for the practical examination. Other hearing and speech professions, such as audiologists and speech-language pathologists, are able to obtain interim permits under RCW 18.35.060 that allow them to complete their postgraduate professional work experience. The workgroup recognized that legislation would be needed to allow an interim permit for hearing aid specialists waiting to take the practical examination.
Overview of Workgroup Recommendations

Objective 1: The opportunity to provide a work-based learning permit for applicants that either have a two-year or four-year degree in a field of study approved by the board from an accredited institution of higher education, or are currently enrolled in a two-year or four-year degree program in a field of study approved by the board in an accredited institution of higher education with no more than one full-time academic year remaining in his or her course of study.

- The workgroup does not recommend a work-based learning permit or an apprenticeship. The board has existing rules that allow individuals enrolled in board-approved programs to perform the duties of a hearing aid specialist in the course of training and under appropriate supervision. With the addition of the nine-month certification pathway to licensure established by EHB 2108, the board has the ability to review nine-month programs that include a work-based component. The work-based component of both the two-year degree programs and nine-month certification programs is not considered on-the-job training or an apprenticeship. It is considered part of an educational program. This is consistent with other credentialed professions.

- The workgroup considered school-based nine-month certification programs and discussed the possibility that other hearing aid specialist programs would seek board approval for their nine-month certification programs. All programs should include a work-based component as part of the course structure. The workgroup recommends that each program apply for board approval. Application procedures and program standards should be established in rule.

- Since the work-based learning permit is not recommended, the workgroup is not making a specific recommendation regarding individuals enrolled in programs with no more than one full-time academic year remaining in his or her course of study. The workgroup recommends that two-year and four-year degree programs be completed before enrolling in a board-approved nine-month certification program due to the intensive nature of the nine-month programs.

- The workgroup considered recommending approved fields of study for two-year and four-year degree applicants who will complete the nine-month certification pathway to licensure. The workgroup recommends four-year degree programs in any field of study from accredited institutions and two-year degrees with the completion of an AA or AS from accredited institutions. The workgroup determined that these degrees incorporate sufficient general education requirements or core competencies to prepare candidates to enter a nine-month certification program. Other degrees may be approved by the board. The nine-month certification programs are intensive study specific to hearing aid specialist instruction.

- The workgroup recommends the board update its rules to add provisions that include approved two-year and four-year degree programs from accredited institutions and board-approved nine-month certification programs.

Objective 2: Criteria for providing a designation of a board-approved licensed hearing aid specialist or board-approved licensed audiologist to act as the applicant’s supervisor.
Although a work-based learning permit is not recommended, the workgroup discussed the work-based components of two-year degree programs and nine-month certification programs offered by hearing aid specialist programs. Both two-year degree programs currently approved by the board (Spokane Falls Community College and Bates Technical College) include a work-based component. The board currently has rules outlining supervisory requirements while students are enrolled in board-approved programs. The workgroup recommends the board update the rules to add provisions that include supervisory requirements for the work-based components of all board-approved programs.

The workgroup recommends establishing these supervisor qualifications in rule:

- A hearing aid specialist providing supervision of a person enrolled in a board-approved hearing aid specialist program must be licensed in good standing under chapter 18.35 RCW with no outstanding complaints and have practiced for a minimum of three years.
- An audiologist providing supervision of a person enrolled in a board-approved hearing aid specialist program must be licensed in good standing under chapter 18.35 RCW with no outstanding complaints and have practiced for a minimum of three years.

Objective 3: Recommended duration of an interim work-based learning permit or apprenticeship.

Although a work-based learning permit is not recommended, the workgroup discussed the maximum time individuals may need to complete board-approved nine-month certification programs. The workgroup recommends that the maximum time limit for completion of instruction and work-based components be two years. This allows for extenuating circumstances. The maximum time for completion of a nine-month program should be monitored by the programs.

Objective 4: Recommendations for a work-based learning permit or apprenticeship and opportunities to offer a program through a partnership with a private business and/or through a partnership with accredited institutions of higher education and a sponsoring private business.

Although a work-based learning permit is not recommended, the workgroup discussed the existing board-approved two-year degree programs in hearing aid instruction offered by Spokane Falls Community College and Bates Technical College. Both of these colleges partner with licensed hearing aid specialists and audiologists to provide the work-based requirements. The proposed nine-month certification programs offered by these schools will also contain a work-based partnership. Schools with hearing aid specialist programs must seek board approval for their nine-month certification programs in order to meet licensure requirements. The workgroup also discussed existing distance learning courses offered by hearing aid specialist programs. The program offered by the International Hearing Society, for example, includes a partnership with a licensed hearing aid specialist or audiologist. Hearing aid specialist programs must seek board approval for their nine-month certification programs in order to meet licensure requirements.

Since the work-based component of the nine-month certification programs is considered an educational component, a work-based learning permit is not needed. The workgroup
recommends the board update the rules to include the minimum number of work-based
hours all board-approved programs must require. The workgroup recommends a
minimum of 520 hours of work-based learning.

Objective 5: Recommendations for the learning pathways or academic components that should
be required in any work-based learning program, including the specific training elements that
must be completed, including, but not limited to, audiomeric testing, counseling regarding
hearing examinations, hearing instrument selections, ear mold impressions, hearing instrument
fitting and follow-up care, and business practices including ethics, regulations, and sanitation and
infection control.

- Although a work-based learning permit is not recommended, the workgroup discussed
  the board’s existing rules that outline academic components of the approved two-year
degree programs which already include work-based learning. The workgroup
recommends the board revise rules to include academic components of nine-month
certification programs that include provisions of work-based learning.

Objective 6: Recommendations for the direct supervision of a work-based learning permit or
apprenticeship, including the number of persons a hearing aid specialist or audiologist may
supervise, and other considerations.

- Although a work-based learning permit is not recommended, the workgroup discussed
  existing rules regarding supervision of hearing aid specialist students. Existing rules do
not define direct supervision of hearing aid specialist students but do state that the
licensee who is supervising hearing aid specialist students must be physically present on
the premises at all times. The supervisor must cosign all purchase agreements for the sale
of hearing instruments.

- The workgroup recommends that the board update the rules to include the definition of
direct supervision for hearing aid specialists and require the first 260 hours of work-based
learning be directly supervised. The workgroup recommends the remaining hours follow
existing rules stating that the supervisor must be physically present on the premises at all
times and must cosign all purchase agreements for the sale of hearing instruments.

- The workgroup discussed the number of individuals a hearing aid specialist or audiologist
may supervise simultaneously as part of an approved educational program. The
workgroup recommends that the board update the rules to reflect that a hearing aid
specialist or audiologist may simultaneously supervise no more than two individuals.

History of Hearing Aid Specialist Licensure Requirements

1996 – The legislature adopted a requirement for a six-month apprenticeship program for hearing
instrument fitter/dispenser. The board was directed to complete a study on the appropriateness of
a two-year degree requirement. The legislation required the board to work with the governing
authorities of several professional associations, the state Board for Community and Technical
Colleges, and the Department of Health and submit recommendations to the legislature by
January 1998 – The report recommended a two-year degree as an entry level requirement for licensing hearing instrument fitter/dispenser.

June 1998 – The legislature adopted the report recommendations and created the requirement for hearing instrument fitter/dispenser to successfully complete a two-year degree program prior to licensure. The requirement was effective January 1, 2003.

2004 – Spokane Falls Community College and Bates Technical College two-year degree programs were approved by the board.

2006 - Rules were finalized for approval procedures of two-year degree programs, site review procedures, the process for rescinding approval, and instruction standards.

2010 – The Board of Hearing and Speech conducted site reviews at Spokane Falls Community College and Bates Technical College. Both colleges received continued approval of their degree programs. Reviewers used existing rules and *Skills Standards for Hearing Instrument Fitters and Dispensers* published by the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges when conducting site reviews.

2014 – EHB 2108 changed the hearing instrument fitter/dispenser license to hearing aid specialist; added a new path to licensure that requires a college degree, nine-month certificate program and practical examination; and required this report on the opportunity to establish an interim work-based learning permit or apprenticeship.

**Recommendations for Future Action**

The work group recommends the board track the number of licensees who become licensed through each pathway.

The workgroup discussed the possibility of an interim permit being available for hearing aid specialists who have completed all educational requirements except for the practical examination. Other hearing and speech professions, such as audiologists and speech-language pathologists, are able to obtain interim permits under RCW 18.35.060 that allow them to complete their postgraduate professional work experience. The workgroup recognized that legislation would be needed to allow an interim permit for hearing aid specialists waiting to take the practical examination.
CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 2108

Chapter 189, Laws of 2014

63rd Legislature
2014 Regular Session

HEARING AID SPECIALISTS

EFFECTIVE DATE: 06/12/14 - Except for Section 4, which becomes effective 07/01/15.

Passed by the House March 10, 2014
Yea 96  Nays 2

FRANK CHOPP
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed by the Senate March 5, 2014
Yea 45  Nays 4

BRAD OWEN
President of the Senate

Approved April 2, 2014, 3:48 p.m.

CERTIFICATE

I, Barbara Baker, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 2108 as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

BARRABRA BAKER
Chief Clerk

FILED

April 4, 2014

JAY INSLEE
Governor of the State of Washington

Secretary of State
State of Washington
AN ACT Relating to hearing instrument fitter/dispensers; amending RCW 18.35.010, 18.35.020, 18.35.040, 18.35.050, 18.35.070, 18.35.095, 18.35.100, 18.35.105, 18.35.110, 18.35.140, 18.35.150, 18.35.161, 18.35.185, 18.35.195, 18.35.205, 18.35.240, and 18.35.260; creating a new section; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. (1) The department of health with the board of hearing and speech, and representatives from the community and technical colleges, must review the opportunity to establish an interim work-based learning permit, or similar apprenticeship opportunity, to provide an additional licensing pathway for hearing aid specialist applicants.

(2) The group shall consider the following areas:

(a) The opportunity to provide a work-based learning permit for applicants that either have a two-year or four-year degree in a field of study approved by the board from an accredited institution of higher education, or are currently enrolled in a two-year or four-year degree program in a field of study approved by the board in an accredited
in an institution of higher education with no more than one full-time academic year remaining in his or her course of study;

(b) The criteria for providing a designation of a board-approved licensed hearing aid specialist or board-approved licensed audiologist to act as the applicant's supervisor;

c) The recommended duration of an interim work-based learning permit or apprenticeship;

d) Recommendations for a work-based learning permit or apprenticeship and opportunities to offer a program through a partnership with a private business and/or through a partnership with accredited institutions of higher education and a sponsoring private business;

e) Recommendations for the learning pathways or academic components that should be required in any work-based learning program, including the specific training elements that must be completed, including, but not limited to, audiometric testing, counseling regarding hearing examinations, hearing instrument selection, ear mold impressions, hearing instrument fitting and follow-up care, and business practices including ethics, regulations, and sanitation and infection control; and

(f) Recommendations for the direct supervision of a work-based learning permit or apprenticeship, including the number of persons a hearing aid specialist or audiologist may supervise, and other considerations.

(3) The work group must submit recommendations to the health committees of the legislature by December 1, 2014.

Sec. 2. RCW 18.35.010 and 2009 c 301 s 2 are each amended to read as follows:
The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Assistive listening device or system" means an amplification system that is specifically designed to improve the signal to noise ratio for the listener, reduce interference from noise in the background, and enhance hearing levels at a distance by picking up sound from as close to source as possible and sending it directly to the ear of the listener, excluding hearing instruments as defined in this chapter.
(2) "Audiology" means the application of principles, methods, and procedures related to hearing and the disorders of hearing and to related language and speech disorders, 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, processing, or vestibular function, the application of aural habilitation, rehabilitation, and appropriate devices including fitting and dispensing of hearing instruments, and cerumen management to treat such disorders.

(3) "Board" means the board of hearing and speech.

(4) "Department" means the department of health.

(5) "Direct supervision" means the supervising speech-language pathologist, hearing aid specialist, or audiologist is on-site and in view during the procedures or tasks. The board shall develop rules outlining the procedures or tasks allowable under direct supervision.

(6) "Establishment" means any permanent site housing a person engaging in the practice of fitting and dispensing of hearing instruments by a hearing aid specialist or audiologist; where the client can have personal contact and counsel during the firm's business hours; where business is conducted; and the address of which is given to the state for the purpose of bonding.

(7) "Facility" means any permanent site housing a person engaging in the practice of speech-language pathology and/or audiology, excluding the sale, lease, or rental of hearing instruments.

(8) "Fitting and dispensing of hearing instruments" means the sale, lease, or rental or attempted sale, lease, or rental of hearing instruments together with the selection and modification of hearing instruments and the administration of nondiagnostic tests as specified by RCW 18.35.110 and the use of procedures essential to the performance of these functions; and includes recommending specific hearing instrument systems, specific hearing instruments, or specific hearing instrument characteristics, the taking of impressions for ear molds for these purposes, the use of nondiagnostic procedures and equipment to verify the appropriateness of the hearing instrument fitting, and hearing instrument orientation. The fitting and dispensing of hearing instruments as defined by this chapter may be equally provided by a licensed hearing aid specialist or licensed audiologist.
(9) "Good standing" means a licensed hearing ((instrument fitter/dispenser)) aid specialist, licensed audiologist, licensed speech-language pathologist, or certified speech-language pathology assistant whose license or certification has not been subject to sanctions pursuant to chapter 18.130 RCW or sanctions by other states, territories, or the District of Columbia in the last two years.

(10) "Hearing aid specialist" means a person who is licensed to engage in the practice of fitting and dispensing of hearing instruments and meets the qualifications of this chapter.

(11) "Hearing health care professional" means an audiologist or hearing ((instrument fitter/dispenser)) aid specialist licensed under this chapter or a physician specializing in diseases of the ear licensed under chapter 18.71 RCW.

(12) "Hearing instrument" means any wearable prosthetic instrument or device designed for or represented as aiding, improving, compensating for, or correcting defective human hearing and any parts, attachments, or accessories of such an instrument or device, excluding batteries and cords, ear molds, and assistive listening devices.

(13) "Indirect supervision" means the procedures or tasks are performed under the speech-language pathologist((ls)), the hearing aid specialist, or the audiologist's overall direction and control, but the speech-language pathologist((ls)), hearing aid specialist, or audiologist's presence is not required during the performance of the procedures or tasks. The board shall develop rules outlining the procedures or tasks allowable under indirect supervision.

(14) "Interim permit holder" means a person who holds the permit created under RCW 18.35.060 and who practices under the supervision of a licensed hearing ((instrument fitter/dispenser)) aid specialist, licensed speech-language pathologist, or licensed audiologist.

(15) "Licensed audiologist" means a person who is licensed by the department to engage in the practice of audiology and meets the qualifications in this chapter.

(16) "Licensed speech-language pathologist" means a person who is licensed by the department to engage in the practice of speech-language pathology and meets the qualifications of this chapter.
(17) "Secretary" means the secretary of health.

(18) "Speech-language pathology" means the application of principles, methods, and procedures related to the development and disorders, whether of organic or nonorganic origin, that impede oral, pharyngeal, or laryngeal sensorimotor competencies and the normal process of human communication including, but not limited to, disorders and related disorders of speech, articulation, fluency, voice, verbal and written language, auditory comprehension, cognition/communication, and the application of augmentative communication treatment and devices for treatment of such disorders.

(19) "Speech-language pathology assistant" means a person who is certified by the department to provide speech-language pathology services under the direction and supervision of a licensed speech-language pathologist or speech-language pathologist certified as an educational staff associate by the superintendent of public instruction, and meets all of the requirements of this chapter.

Sec. 3. RCW 18.35.020 and 2006 c 263 s 801 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) No person shall engage in the fitting and dispensing of hearing instruments or imply or represent that he or she is engaged in the fitting and dispensing of hearing instruments unless he or she is a licensed hearing aid specialist, or a licensed audiologist or holds an interim permit issued by the department as provided in this chapter and is an owner or employee of an establishment that is bonded as provided by RCW 18.35.240. The owner or manager of an establishment that dispenses hearing instruments is responsible under this chapter for all transactions made in the establishment name or conducted on its premises by agents or persons employed by the establishment engaged in fitting and dispensing of hearing instruments. Every establishment that fits and dispenses shall have in its employ at least one licensed hearing aid specialist or licensed audiologist at all times, and shall annually submit proof that all testing equipment at that establishment that is required by the board to be calibrated has been properly calibrated.

(2) Effective January 1, 2003, no person shall engage in the practice of audiology or imply or represent that he or she is engaged
in the practice of audiology unless he or she is a licensed audiologist or holds an audiology interim permit issued by the department as provided in this chapter. Audiologists who are certified as educational staff associates by the Washington professional educator standards board are excluded unless they elect to become licensed under this chapter. However, a person certified by the state board of education as an educational staff associate who practices outside the school setting must be a licensed audiologist.

(3) Effective January 1, 2003, no person shall engage in the practice of speech-language pathology or imply or represent that he or she is engaged in the practice of speech-language pathology unless he or she is a licensed speech-language pathologist or holds a speech-language pathology interim permit issued by the department as provided in this chapter. Speech-language pathologists who are certified as educational staff associates by the state board of education are excluded unless they elect to become licensed under this chapter. However, a person certified by the state board of education as an educational staff associate who practices outside the school setting must be a licensed speech-language pathologist.

Sec. 4. RCW 18.35.040 and 2009 c 301 s 3 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) An applicant for licensure as a hearing ((instrument fitter/dispenser)) aid specialist must have the following minimum qualifications and shall pay a fee determined by the secretary as provided in RCW 43.70.250. An applicant shall be issued a license under the provisions of this chapter if the applicant has not committed unprofessional conduct as specified by chapter 18.130 RCW, and:

(a)(i) Satisfactorily completes the hearing ((instrument fitter/dispenser)) aid specialist examination required by this chapter; and

(ii) Satisfactorily completes:

(A) A minimum of a two-year degree program in hearing ((instrument fitter/dispenser)) aid specialist instruction. The program must be approved by the board;

(B) A two-year or four-year degree in a field of study approved by the board from an accredited institution, a nine-month board-approved certificate program offered by a board-approved hearing aid specialist
program and the practical examination approved by the board. The practical examination must be given at least quarterly, as determined by the board. The department may hire licensed industry experts approved by the board to proctor the examination; or

(b) Holds a current, unsuspended, unrevoked license from another jurisdiction if the standards for licensing in such other jurisdiction are substantially equivalent to those prevailing in this state as provided in (a) of this subsection; or

(c)(i) Holds a current, unsuspended, unrevoked license from another jurisdiction, has been actively practicing as a licensed hearing aid ((fitter/dispenser)) specialist in another jurisdiction for at least forty-eight of the last sixty months, and submits proof of completion of advance certification from either the international hearing society or the national board for certification in hearing instrument sciences; and

(ii) Satisfactorily completes the hearing ((instrument fitter/dispenser)) aid specialist examination required by this chapter or a substantially equivalent examination approved by the board.

The applicant must present proof of qualifications to the board in the manner and on forms prescribed by the secretary and proof of completion of a minimum of four clock hours of AIDS education and training pursuant to rules adopted by the board.

(2)(a) An applicant for licensure as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist must have the following minimum qualifications:

(i) Has not committed unprofessional conduct as specified by the uniform disciplinary act;

(ii) Has a master's degree or the equivalent, or a doctorate degree or the equivalent, from a program at a board-approved institution of higher learning, which includes completion of a supervised clinical practicum experience as defined by rules adopted by the board; and

(iii) Has completed postgraduate professional work experience approved by the board.

(b) All qualified applicants must satisfactorily complete the speech-language pathology or audiology examinations required by this chapter.

(c) The applicant must present proof of qualifications to the board in the manner and on forms prescribed by the secretary and proof of
completion of a minimum of four clock hours of AIDS education and
training pursuant to rules adopted by the board.

(3) An applicant for certification as a speech-language pathology
assistant shall pay a fee determined by the secretary as provided in
RCW 43.70.250 and must have the following minimum qualifications:

(a) An associate of arts or sciences degree, or a certificate of
proficiency, from a speech-language pathology assistant program from an
institution of higher education that is approved by the board, as is
evidenced by the following:

(i) Transcripts showing forty-five quarter hours or thirty semester
hours of speech-language pathology coursework; and

(ii) Transcripts showing forty-five quarter hours or thirty
semester hours of general education credit; or

(b) A bachelor of arts or bachelor of sciences degree, as evidenced
by transcripts, from a speech, language, and hearing program from an
institution of higher education that is approved by the board.

Sec. 5. RCW 18.35.050 and 2002 c 310 s 5 are each amended to read
as follows:

Except as otherwise provided in this chapter an applicant for
license shall appear at a time and place and before such persons as the
department may designate to be examined by written or practical tests,
or both. Examinations in hearing ((instrument fitting/dispensing)) aid
specialist, speech-language pathology, and audiology shall be held
within the state at least once a year. The examinations shall be
reviewed annually by the board and the department, and revised as
necessary. The examinations shall include appropriate subject matter
to ensure the competence of the applicant. Nationally recognized
examinations in the fields of fitting and dispensing of hearing
instruments, speech-language pathology, and audiology may be used to
determine if applicants are qualified for licensure. An applicant who
fails an examination may apply for reexamination upon payment of a
reexamination fee. The hearing ((instrument fitting/dispensing)) aid
specialist reexamination fee for hearing ((instrument
fitter/dispensers)) aid specialists and audiologists shall be set by
the secretary under RCW 43.70.250.
Sec. 6. RCW 18.35.070 and 1996 c 200 s 8 are each amended to read as follows:

The hearing ((instrument fitter/dispenser)) aid specialist written or practical examination, or both, provided in RCW 18.35.050 shall consist of:

1. Tests of knowledge in the following areas as they pertain to the fitting of hearing instruments:
   a. Basic physics of sound;
   b. The human hearing mechanism, including the science of hearing and the causes and rehabilitation of abnormal hearing and hearing disorders; and
   c. Structure and function of hearing instruments.

2. Tests of proficiency in the following areas as they pertain to the fitting of hearing instruments:
   a. Pure tone audiometry, including air conduction testing and bone conduction testing;
   b. Live voice or recorded voice speech audiometry, including speech reception threshold testing and speech discrimination testing;
   c. Effective masking;
   d. Recording and evaluation of audiograms and speech audiometry to determine hearing instrument candidacy;
   e. Selection and adaptation of hearing instruments and testing of hearing instruments; and
   f. Taking ear mold impressions.

3. Evidence of knowledge regarding the medical and rehabilitation facilities for children and adults that are available in the area served.

4. Evidence of knowledge of grounds for revocation or suspension of license under the provisions of this chapter.

5. Any other tests as the board may by rule establish.

Sec. 7. RCW 18.35.095 and 2009 c 301 s 4 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) A hearing ((instrument fitter/dispenser)) aid specialist licensed under this chapter and not actively practicing may be placed on inactive status by the department at the written request of the licensee. The board shall define by rule the conditions for inactive status licensure. In addition to the requirements of RCW 43.24.086,
the licensing fee for a licensee on inactive status shall be directly related to the costs of administering an inactive license by the department. A hearing ((instrument fitter/dispenser)) aid specialist on inactive status may be voluntarily placed on active status by notifying the department in writing, paying the remainder of the licensing fee for the licensing year, and complying with subsection (2) of this section.

(2) Hearing ((instrument fitter/dispenser)) aid specialist inactive licensees applying for active licensure shall comply with the following: A licensee who has not fitted or dispensed hearing instruments for more than five years from the expiration of the licensee's full fee license shall retake the practical or the written, or both, hearing ((instrument fitter/dispenser)) aid specialist examinations required under this chapter and other requirements as determined by the board. Persons who have inactive status in this state but who are actively licensed and in good standing in any other state shall not be required to take the hearing ((instrument fitter/dispenser)) aid specialist practical examination, but must submit an affidavit attesting to their knowledge of the current Washington Administrative Code rules and Revised Code of Washington statutes pertaining to the fitting and dispensing of hearing instruments.

(3) A speech-language pathologist or audiologist licensed under this chapter, or a speech-language pathology assistant certified under this chapter, and not actively practicing either speech-language pathology or audiology may be placed on inactive status by the department at the written request of the license or certification holder. The board shall define by rule the conditions for inactive status licensure or certification. In addition to the requirements of RCW 43.24.086, the fee for a license or certification on inactive status shall be directly related to the cost of administering an inactive license or certification by the department. A person on inactive status may be voluntarily placed on active status by notifying the department in writing, paying the remainder of the fee for the year, and complying with subsection (4) of this section.

(4) Speech-language pathologist, speech-language pathology assistant, or audiologist inactive license or certification holders
applying for active licensure or certification shall comply with requirements set forth by the board, which may include completion of continuing competency requirements and taking an examination.

Sec. 8. RCW 18.35.100 and 2002 c 310 s 10 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) Every hearing aid specialist, audiologist, speech-language pathologist, or interim permit holder, who is regulated under this chapter, shall notify the department in writing of the regular address of the place or places in the state of Washington where the person practices or intends to practice more than twenty consecutive business days and of any change thereof within ten days of such change. Failure to notify the department in writing shall be grounds for suspension or revocation of the license or interim permit.

(2) The department shall keep a record of the places of business of persons who hold licenses or interim permits.

(3) Any notice required to be given by the department to a person who holds a license or interim permit may be given by mailing it to the address of the last establishment or facility of which the person has notified the department, except that notice to a licensee or interim permit holder of proceedings to deny, suspend, or revoke the license or interim permit shall be by certified or registered mail or by means authorized for service of process.

Sec. 9. RCW 18.35.105 and 2002 c 310 s 11 are each amended to read as follows:

Each licensee and interim permit holder under this chapter shall keep records of all services rendered for a minimum of three years. These records shall contain the names and addresses of all persons to whom services were provided. Hearing aid specialists, audiologists, and interim permit holders shall also record the date the hearing instrument warranty expires, a description of the services and the dates the services were provided, and copies of any contracts and receipts. All records, as required pursuant to this chapter or by rule, shall be owned by the establishment or facility and shall remain with the establishment or facility in the event the licensee changes employment. If a contract between the establishment
or facility and the licensee provides that the records are to remain
with the licensee, copies of such records shall be provided to the
establishment or facility.

Sec. 10. RCW 18.35.110 and 2002 c 310 s 12 are each amended to
read as follows:

In addition to causes specified under RCW 18.130.170 and
18.130.180, any person licensed or holding an interim permit under this
chapter may be subject to disciplinary action by the board for any of
the following causes:

(1) For unethical conduct in dispensing hearing instruments.

Unethical conduct shall include, but not be limited to:

(a) Using or causing or promoting the use of, in any advertising
matter, promotional literature, testimonial, guarantee, warranty,
label, brand, insignia, or any other representation, however
disseminated or published, which is false, misleading or deceptive;

(b) Failing or refusing to honor or to perform as represented any
representation, promise, agreement, or warranty in connection with the
promotion, sale, dispensing, or fitting of the hearing instrument;

(c) Advertising a particular model, type, or kind of hearing
instrument for sale which purchasers or prospective purchasers
responding to the advertisement cannot purchase or are dissuaded from
purchasing and where it is established that the purpose of the
advertisement is to obtain prospects for the sale of a different model,
type, or kind than that advertised;

(d) Falsifying hearing test or evaluation results;

(e)(i) Whenever any of the following conditions are found or should
have been found to exist either from observations by the licensee or
interim permit holder or on the basis of information furnished by the
prospective hearing instrument user prior to fitting and dispensing a
hearing instrument to any such prospective hearing instrument user,
fail[ing] to advise that prospective hearing instrument user in writing
that the user should first consult a licensed physician specializing in
diseases of the ear or if no such licensed physician is available in
the community then to any duly licensed physician:

(A) Visible congenital or traumatic deformity of the ear, including
perforation of the eardrum;
(B) History of, or active drainage from the ear within the previous ninety days;

(C) History of sudden or rapidly progressive hearing loss within the previous ninety days;

(D) Acute or chronic dizziness;

(E) Any unilateral hearing loss;

(F) Significant air-bone gap when generally acceptable standards have been established as defined by the food and drug administration;

(G) Visible evidence of significant cerumen accumulation or a foreign body in the ear canal;

(H) Pain or discomfort in the ear; or

(I) Any other conditions that the board may by rule establish. It is a violation of this subsection for any licensee or that licensee's employees and putative agents upon making such required referral for medical opinion to in any manner whatsoever disparage or discourage a prospective hearing instrument user from seeking such medical opinion prior to the fitting and dispensing of a hearing instrument. No such referral for medical opinion need be made by any licensed hearing aid specialist, licensed audiologist, or interim permit holder in the instance of replacement only of a hearing instrument which has been lost or damaged beyond repair within twelve months of the date of purchase. The licensed hearing aid specialist, licensed audiologist, or interim permit holder or their employees or putative agents shall obtain a signed statement from the hearing instrument user documenting the waiver of medical clearance and the waiver shall inform the prospective user that signing the waiver is not in the user's best health interest: PROVIDED, That the licensed hearing aid specialist, licensed audiologist, or interim permit holder shall maintain a copy of either the physician's statement showing that the prospective hearing instrument user has had a medical evaluation within the previous six months or the statement waiving medical evaluation, for a period of three years after the purchaser's receipt of a hearing instrument. Nothing in this section required to be performed by a licensee or interim permit holder shall mean that the licensee or interim permit holder is engaged in the diagnosis of illness or the practice of medicine or any other activity prohibited under the laws of this state;
(ii) Fitting and dispensing a hearing instrument to any person under eighteen years of age who has not been examined and cleared for hearing instrument use within the previous six months by a physician specializing in otolaryngology except in the case of replacement instruments or except in the case of the parents or guardian of such person refusing, for good cause, to seek medical opinion: PROVIDED, that should the parents or guardian of such person refuse, for good cause, to seek medical opinion, the licensed hearing ([instrument fitter/dispenser]) aid specialist or licensed audiologist shall obtain from such parents or guardian a certificate to that effect in a form as prescribed by the department;

(iii) Fitting and dispensing a hearing instrument to any person under eighteen years of age who has not been examined by an audiologist who holds at least a master's degree in audiology for recommendations during the previous six months, without first advising such person or his or her parents or guardian in writing that he or she should first consult an audiologist who holds at least a master's degree in audiology, except in cases of hearing instruments replaced within twelve months of their purchase;

(f) Representing that the services or advice of a person licensed to practice medicine and surgery under chapter 18.71 RCW or osteopathic medicine and surgery under chapter 18.57 RCW or of a clinical audiologist will be used or made available in the selection, fitting, adjustment, maintenance, or repair of hearing instruments when that is not true, or using the word "doctor," "clinic," or other like words, abbreviations, or symbols which tend to connote a medical or osteopathic medicine and surgery profession when such use is not accurate;

(g) Permitting another to use his or her license or interim permit;

(h) Stating or implying that the use of any hearing instrument will restore normal hearing, preserve hearing, prevent or retard progression of a hearing impairment, or any other false, misleading, or medically or audiologically unsupportable claim regarding the efficiency of a hearing instrument;

(i) Representing or implying that a hearing instrument is or will be "custom-made," "made to order," "prescription made," or in any other sense specially fabricated for an individual when that is not the case; or
(j) Directly or indirectly offering, giving, permitting, or causing to be given, money or anything of value to any person who advised another in a professional capacity as an inducement to influence that person, or to have that person influence others to purchase or contract to purchase any product sold or offered for sale by the hearing aid specialist, audiologist, or interim permit holder, or to influence any person to refrain from dealing in the products of competitors.

(2) Engaging in any unfair or deceptive practice or unfair method of competition in trade within the meaning of RCW 19.86.020.

(3) Aiding or abetting any violation of the rebating laws as stated in chapter 19.68 RCW.

Sec. 11. RCW 18.35.140 and 2002 c 310 s 14 are each amended to read as follows:

The powers and duties of the department, in addition to the powers and duties provided under other sections of this chapter, are as follows:

(1) To provide space necessary to carry out the examination set forth in RCW 18.35.070 of applicants for hearing aid specialist licenses or audiology licenses.

(2) To authorize all disbursements necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

(3) To require the periodic examination of testing equipment, as defined by the board, and to carry out the periodic inspection of facilities or establishments of persons who are licensed under this chapter, as reasonably required within the discretion of the department.

(4) To appoint advisory committees as necessary.

(5) To keep a record of proceedings under this chapter and a register of all persons licensed or holding interim permits under this chapter. The register shall show the name of every living licensee or interim permit holder for hearing aid specialist, every living licensee or interim permit holder for speech-language pathology, and every living licensee or interim permit holder for audiology, with his or her last known place of residence and the date and number of his or her license or interim permit.
Sec. 12. RCW 18.35.150 and 2009 c 301 s 5 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) There is created hereby the board of hearing and speech to govern the three separate professions: Hearing ((instrument fitting/dispensing)) aid specialist, audiology, and speech-language pathology. The board shall consist of eleven members to be appointed by the governor.

(2) Members of the board shall be residents of this state. Three members shall represent the public and shall have an interest in the rights of consumers of health services, and shall not be or have been a member of, or married to a member of, another licensing board, a licensee of a health occupation board, an employee of a health facility, nor derive his or her primary livelihood from the provision of health services at any level of responsibility. Two members shall be hearing ((instrument fitter/dispensers)) aid specialists who are licensed under this chapter, have at least five years of experience in the practice of hearing instrument fitting and dispensing, and must be actively engaged in fitting and dispensing within two years of appointment. Two members of the board shall be audiologists licensed under this chapter who have at least five years of experience in the practice of audiology and must be actively engaged in practice within two years of appointment. Two members of the board shall be speech-language pathologists licensed under this chapter who have at least five years of experience in the practice of speech-language pathology and must be actively engaged in practice within two years of appointment. One advisory nonvoting member shall be a speech-language pathology assistant certified in Washington. One advisory nonvoting member shall be a medical physician licensed in the state of Washington.

(3) The term of office of a member is three years. Of the initial appointments, one hearing ((instrument fitter/dispensers)) aid specialist, one speech-language pathologist, one audiologist, and one consumer shall be appointed for a term of two years, and one hearing ((instrument fitter/dispensers)) aid specialist, one speech-language pathologist, one audiologist, and two consumers shall be appointed for a term of three years. Thereafter, all appointments shall be made for expired terms. No member shall be appointed to serve more than two consecutive terms. A member shall continue to serve until a successor
has been appointed. The governor shall either reappoint the member or appoint a successor to assume the member's duties at the expiration of his or her predecessor's term. A vacancy in the office of a member shall be filled by appointment for the unexpired term.

(4) The chair shall rotate annually among the hearing aid specialists, speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and public members serving on the board. In the absence of the chair, the board shall appoint an interim chair. In event of a tie vote, the issue shall be brought to a second vote and the chair shall refrain from voting.

(5) The board shall meet at least once each year, at a place, day and hour determined by the board, unless otherwise directed by a majority of board members. The board shall also meet at such other times and places as are requested by the department or by three members of the board. A quorum is a majority of the board. A hearing aid specialist, speech-language pathologist, and audiologist must be represented. Meetings of the board shall be open and public, except the board may hold executive sessions to the extent permitted by chapter 42.30 RCW.

(6) Members of the board shall be compensated in accordance with RCW 43.03.240 and shall be reimbursed for their travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

(7) The governor may remove a member of the board for cause at the recommendation of a majority of the board.

Sec. 13. RCW 18.35.161 and 2010 c 65 s 4 are each amended to read as follows:

The board shall have the following powers and duties:

(1) To establish by rule such minimum standards and procedures in the fitting and dispensing of hearing instruments as deemed appropriate and in the public interest;

(2) To adopt any other rules necessary to implement this chapter and which are not inconsistent with it;

(3) To develop, approve, and administer or supervise the administration of examinations to applicants for licensure under this chapter;

(4) To require a licensee or interim permit holder to make restitution to any individual injured by a violation of this chapter or
chapter 18.130 RCW, the uniform disciplinary act. The authority to 
require restitution does not limit the board's authority to take other 
action deemed appropriate and provided for in this chapter or chapter 
18.130 RCW;

(5) To pass upon the qualifications of applicants for licensure or 
interim permits and to certify to the secretary;

(6) To recommend requirements for continuing education and 
continuing competency requirements as a prerequisite to renewing a 
license or certification under this chapter;

(7) To keep an official record of all its proceedings. The record 
is evidence of all proceedings of the board that are set forth in this 
record;

(8) To adopt rules, if the board finds it appropriate, in response 
to questions put to it by professional health associations, hearing 
((instrument fitter/dispensers or)) aid specialists, audiologists, 
speech-language pathologists, interim permit holders, and consumers in 
this state; and

(9) To adopt rules relating to standards of care relating to 
hearing ((instrument fitter/dispenser)) aid specialists or 
audiologists, including the dispensing of hearing instruments, and 
relating to speech-language pathologists, including dispensing of 
communication devices.

Sec. 14.  RCW 18.35.185 and 2002 c 310 s 19 are each amended to 
read as follows:

(1) In addition to any other rights and remedies a purchaser may 
have, the purchaser of a hearing instrument shall have the right to 
rescind the transaction for other than the licensed hearing 
((instrument fitter/dispenser)) aid specialist, licensed audiologist, 
or interim permit holder's breach if:

(a) The purchaser, for reasonable cause, returns the hearing 
instrument or holds it at the licensed hearing ((instrument 
fitter/dispenser)) aid specialist, licensed audiologist, or interim 
permit holder's disposal, if the hearing instrument is in its original 
condition less normal wear and tear. "Reasonable cause" shall be 
defined by the board but shall not include a mere change of mind on the 
part of the purchaser or a change of mind related to cosmetic concerns 
of the purchaser about wearing a hearing instrument; and
(b) The purchaser sends notice of the cancellation by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the establishment employing the licensed hearing aid specialist, licensed audiologist, or interim permit holder at the time the hearing instrument was originally purchased, and the notice is posted not later than thirty days following the date of delivery, but the purchaser and the licensed hearing aid specialist, licensed audiologist, or interim permit holder may extend the deadline for posting of the notice of rescission by mutual, written agreement. In the event the hearing instrument develops a problem which qualifies as a reasonable cause for rescission or which prevents the purchaser from evaluating the hearing instrument, and the purchaser notifies the establishment employing the licensed hearing aid specialist, licensed audiologist, or interim permit holder of the problem during the thirty days following the date of delivery and documents such notification, the deadline for posting the notice of rescission shall be extended by an equal number of days as those between the date of the notification of the problem to the date of notification of availability for redeliveries. Where the hearing instrument is returned to the licensed hearing aid specialist, licensed audiologist, or interim permit holder for any inspection for modification or repair, and the licensed hearing aid specialist, licensed audiologist, or interim permit holder has notified the purchaser that the hearing instrument is available for redelivery, and where the purchaser has not responded by either taking possession of the hearing instrument or instructing the licensed hearing aid specialist, licensed audiologist, or interim permit holder to forward it to the purchaser, then the deadline for giving notice of the rescission shall extend no more than seven working days after this notice of availability.

(2) If the transaction is rescinded under this section or as otherwise provided by law and the hearing instrument is returned to the licensed hearing aid specialist, licensed audiologist, or interim permit holder, the licensed hearing aid specialist, licensed audiologist, or interim permit holder shall refund to the purchaser any payments or deposits for that hearing instrument. However, the licensed hearing
((instrument fitter/dispenser)) aid specialist, licensed audiologist, or interim permit holder may retain, for each hearing instrument, fifteen percent of the total purchase price or one hundred twenty-five dollars, whichever is less. After December 31, 1996, the rescission amount shall be determined by the board. The licensed hearing ((instrument fitter/dispenser)) aid specialist, licensed audiologist, or interim permit holder shall also return any goods traded in contemplation of the sale, less any costs incurred by the licensed hearing ((instrument fitter/dispenser)) aid specialist, licensed audiologist, or interim permit holder in making those goods ready for resale. The refund shall be made within ten business days after the rescission. The buyer shall incur no additional liability for such rescission.

(3) For the purposes of this section, the purchaser shall have recourse against the bond held by the establishment entering into a purchase agreement with the buyer, as provided by RCW 18.35.240.

Sec. 15. RCW 18.35.195 and 2006 c 263 s 802 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) This chapter shall not apply to military or federal government employees.

(2) This chapter does not prohibit or regulate:
   (a) Fitting or dispensing by students enrolled in a board-approved program who are directly supervised by a licensed hearing ((instrument fitter/dispenser)) aid specialist, a licensed audiologist under the provisions of this chapter, or an instructor at a two-year hearing ((instrument fitter/dispenser)) aid specialist degree program that is approved by the board;
   (b) Hearing ((instrument fitter/dispensers)) aid specialists, speech-language pathologists, or audiologists of other states, territories, or countries, or the District of Columbia while appearing as clinicians of bona fide educational seminars sponsored by speech-language pathology, audiology, hearing ((instrument fitter/dispenser)) aid specialist, medical, or other healing art professional associations so long as such activities do not go beyond the scope of practice defined by this chapter; and
   (c) The practice of audiology or speech-language pathology by persons certified by the Washington professional educator standards
board as educational staff associates, except for those persons
electing to be licensed under this chapter. However, a person
certified by the board as an educational staff associate who practices
outside the school setting must be a licensed audiologist or licensed
speech-language pathologist.

Sec. 16. RCW 18.35.205 and 2009 c 301 s 6 are each amended to read
as follows:
The legislature finds that the public health, safety, and welfare
would best be protected by uniform regulation of hearing ((instrument
fitter/dispensers)) aid specialists, speech-language pathologists,
speech-language pathology assistants, audiologists, and interim permit
holders throughout the state. Therefore, the provisions of this
chapter relating to the licensing of hearing ((instrument
fitter/dispensers)) aid specialists, speech-language pathologists, and
audiologists, the certification of speech-language pathology
assistants, and regulation of interim permit holders and their
respective establishments or facilities is exclusive. No political
subdivision of the state of Washington within whose jurisdiction a
hearing ((instrument fitter/dispenser)) aid specialist, audiologist, or
speech-language pathologist establishment or facility is located may
require any registrations, bonds, licenses, certificates, or interim
permits of the establishment or facility or its employees or charge any
fee for the same or similar purposes: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That nothing
herein shall limit or abridge the authority of any political
subdivision to levy and collect a general and nondiscriminatory license
fee levied on all businesses, or to levy a tax based upon the gross
business conducted by any firm within the political subdivision.

Sec. 17. RCW 18.35.240 and 2002 c 310 s 24 are each amended to
read as follows:
(1) Every individual engaged in the fitting and dispensing of
hearing instruments shall be covered by a surety bond of ten thousand
dollars or more, for the benefit of any person injured or damaged as a
result of any violation by the licensee or permit holder, or their
employees or agents, of any of the provisions of this chapter or rules
adopted by the secretary.
(2) In lieu of the surety bond required by this section, the 
licensee or permit holder may deposit cash or other negotiable security 
in a banking institution as defined in chapter 30.04 RCW or a credit 
union as defined in chapter 31.12 RCW. All obligations and remedies 
relating to surety bonds shall apply to deposits and security filed in 
lieu of surety bonds.

(3) If a cash deposit or other negotiable security is filed, the 
licensee or permit holder shall maintain such cash or other negotiable 
security for one year after discontinuing the fitting and dispensing of 
hearing instruments.

(4) Each invoice for the purchase of a hearing instrument provided 
to a customer must clearly display on the first page the bond number 
covering the licensee or interim permit holder responsible for 
fitting/dispensing the hearing instrument.

(5) All licensed hearing aid specialists, licensed audiologists, and permit holders must verify 
compliance with the requirement to hold a surety bond or cash or other 
negotiable security by submitting a signed declaration of compliance 
upon annual renewal of their license or permit. Up to twenty-five 
percent of the credential holders may be randomly audited for surety 
bond compliance after the credential is renewed. It is the credential 
holder's responsibility to submit a copy of the original surety bond or 
bonds, or documentation that cash or other negotiable security is held 
in a banking institution during the time period being audited. Failure 
to comply with the audit documentation request or failure to supply 
acceptable documentation within thirty days may result in disciplinary 
action.

Sec. 18. RCW 18.35.260 and 2009 c 301 s 7 are each amended to read 
as follows:

(1) A person who is not a licensed hearing aid specialist may not represent himself or herself as being so licensed and may not use in connection with his or her name the words "licensed hearing instrument fitter/dispenser," "hearing instrument specialist," or "hearing aid fitter/dispenser," or a variation, synonym, word, sign, number, insignia, coinage, or whatever expresses, employs, or implies these terms, names, or functions of a licensed hearing aid specialist.
(2) A person who is not a licensed speech-language pathologist may not represent himself or herself as being so licensed and may not use in connection with his or her name the words including "licensed speech-language pathologist" or a variation, synonym, word, sign, number, insignia, coinage, or whatever expresses, employs, or implies these terms, names, or functions as a licensed speech-language pathologist.

(3) A person who is not a certified speech-language pathology assistant may not represent himself or herself as being so certified and may not use in connection with his or her name the words including "certified speech-language pathology assistant" or a variation, synonym, word, sign, number, insignia, coinage, or whatever expresses, employs, or implies these terms, names, or functions as a certified speech-language pathology assistant.

(4) A person who is not a licensed audiologist may not represent himself or herself as being so licensed and may not use in connection with his or her name the words "licensed audiologist" or a variation, synonym, letter, word, sign, number, insignia, coinage, or whatever expresses, employs, or implies these terms, names, or functions of a licensed audiologist.

(5) Nothing in this chapter prohibits a person credentialed in this state under another act from engaging in the practice for which he or she is credentialed.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 19. Section 4 of this act takes effect July 1, 2015.

Passed by the House March 10, 2014.
Passed by the Senate March 5, 2014.
Approved by the Governor April 2, 2014.
Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 4, 2014.
Appendix B – Work Group Members

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