

HOUSE BILL 211

**57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2026**

INTRODUCED BY

Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson

AN ACT

RELATING TO PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE; CREATING A NEW LICENSE FOR  
SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANTS; PROVIDING FOR A DELAYED  
REPEAL OF THE APPRENTICE IN SPEECH AND LANGUAGE LICENSE;  
REPEALING SECTIONS 61-14B-3.1 AND 61-14B-15.1 NMSA 1978 (BEING  
LAWS 1999, CHAPTER 128, SECTIONS 3 AND 8, AS AMENDED) EFFECTIVE  
JANUARY 1, 2028.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

**SECTION 1.** Section 22-10A-17 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2003,  
Chapter 153, Section 48, as amended) is amended to read:

"22-10A-17. INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT PROVIDER LICENSES.--

A. The following instructional support providers  
shall obtain appropriate licensure from the department:  
educational assistants, school counselors, school social  
workers, school nurses, speech-language pathologists, speech-

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1 language pathology assistants, psychologists, physical  
2 therapists, physical therapy assistants, occupational  
3 therapists, occupational therapy assistants, recreational  
4 therapists, marriage and family therapists, interpreters for  
5 the deaf, diagnosticians, attendance coaches, practical nurses,  
6 school health assistants, school business officials,  
7 rehabilitation counselors, athletic coaches, educational  
8 alcohol and drug abuse counselors and substance abuse  
9 associates. The department may provide a professional  
10 licensing framework in which licensees can advance in their  
11 careers through the demonstration of increased competencies and  
12 the undertaking of increased duties.

13 B. The department shall provide by rule for the  
14 licensure requirements for any instructional support providers.  
15 If an instructional support provider practices a licensed  
16 profession, the provider shall provide evidence satisfactory to  
17 the department that the provider holds a current, unsuspended  
18 license in the profession for which the provider is applying to  
19 provide instructional support services.

20 C. An instructional support provider licensed by  
21 the department shall also hold a valid professional license or  
22 certificate issued by the instructional support provider's  
23 respective licensing or certifying authority, if applicable,  
24 and shall continuously hold such underlying professional  
25 licensure or certification for as long as the instructional

1 support provider holds licensure issued by the department.

2 D. If the underlying professional license or  
3 certificate for any reason expires, is suspended, is revoked or  
4 is denied, a person seeking or holding an instructional support  
5 provider license shall notify the department in writing within  
6 fourteen calendar days of such suspension, revocation, denial  
7 or expiration.

8 E. Suspension, revocation, denial or expiration of  
9 an underlying professional license or certificate, or failure  
10 to notify the department of such, shall constitute just cause  
11 for discharge or termination from employment and for  
12 suspension, revocation or denial of an instructional support  
13 provider license."

14 SECTION 2. Section 61-14B-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1996,  
15 Chapter 57, Section 2, as amended) is amended to read:

16 "61-14B-2. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Speech-Language  
17 Pathology, Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensing Practices Act:

18 A. "apprentice" means a person working toward full  
19 licensure in speech-language pathology who meets the  
20 requirements for licensure as an apprentice in speech and  
21 language pursuant to the Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology  
22 and Hearing Aid Dispensing Practices Act;

23 B. "appropriate supervisor" means a person licensed  
24 pursuant to the provisions of the Speech-Language Pathology,  
25 Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensing Practices Act who has a

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1 minimum of two years' experience as a speech-language  
2 pathologist after the clinical fellowship year;

3 C. "auditory trainer" means a custom-fitted FM  
4 amplifying instrument other than a hearing aid designed to  
5 enhance signal-to-noise ratios;

6 D. "audiologist" means a person who ~~[engages]~~ meets  
7 the requirements to engage in the practice of audiology and who  
8 may or may not dispense hearing aids ~~[and who meets the~~  
9 ~~qualifications set forth in the Speech-Language Pathology,~~  
10 ~~Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensing Practices Act];~~

11 E. "bilingual-multicultural endorsement" means an  
12 endorsement that is issued pursuant to the Speech-Language  
13 Pathology, Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensing Practices Act  
14 to a qualified speech-language pathologist and that recognizes  
15 the licensee's or applicant's demonstrated proficiency in the  
16 use of languages other than English to provide speech-language  
17 pathology services;

18 F. "board" means the speech-language pathology,  
19 audiology and hearing aid dispensing practices board;

20 G. "business location" means a permanent physical  
21 business location in New Mexico where records can be examined  
22 and process served;

23 H. "certification by a national professional  
24 association" means certification issued by a board-approved  
25 national speech-language or hearing association;

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1 I. "clinical fellow" means a person who has  
2 completed all academic course work and practicum requirements  
3 for a master's degree or the equivalent in speech-language  
4 pathology and ~~[engages]~~ meets the requirements to engage in the  
5 practice of speech-language pathology ~~[as set forth in the~~  
6 ~~provisions of the Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology and~~  
7 ~~Hearing Aid Dispensing Practices Act];~~

8 J. "clinical fellowship year" or "CFY" means the  
9 time following the completion of all academic course work and  
10 practicum requirements for a master's degree in speech-language  
11 pathology and during which a clinical fellow is working toward  
12 certification by a national professional association;

13 K. "department" means the regulation and licensing  
14 department;

15 L. "hearing aid" means a wearable instrument or  
16 device designed or offered for the purpose of aiding or  
17 compensating for impaired human hearing and any parts,  
18 attachments or accessories, including earmolds but excluding  
19 batteries and cords;

20 M. "hearing aid dispenser" means a person other  
21 than an audiologist or an otolaryngologist who is licensed to  
22 sell, fit and service hearing aids pursuant to the Speech-  
23 Language Pathology, Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensing  
24 Practices Act and maintains or occupies a permanent physical  
25 business location in New Mexico where records can be examined

1 and process can be served;

2 N. "otolaryngologist" means a licensed physician  
3 who has completed a recognized residency in otolaryngology and  
4 is certified by the American board of otolaryngology;

5 O. "paraprofessional" means a person who provides  
6 adjunct speech-pathology or audiology services under the direct  
7 supervision of a licensed speech-language pathologist or  
8 audiologist;

9 P. "practice of audiology" means the application of  
10 principles, methods and procedures of measurement, testing,  
11 appraisal, prognostication, aural rehabilitation, aural  
12 habilitation, consultation, hearing aid selection and fitting,  
13 counseling, instruction and research related to hearing and  
14 disorders of hearing for the purpose of nonmedical diagnosis,  
15 prevention, identification, amelioration or the modification of  
16 communicative disorders involving speech, language auditory  
17 function or other aberrant behavior related to hearing  
18 disorders;

19 Q. "practice of hearing aid dispensing" means the  
20 behavioral measurement of human hearing for the purpose of the  
21 selection and fitting of hearing aids or other rehabilitative  
22 devices to ameliorate the dysfunction of hearing sensitivity;  
23 this may include otoscopic inspection of the ear, fabrication  
24 of ear impressions and earmolds, instruction, consultation and  
25 counseling on the use and care of these instruments, medical

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1 referral when appropriate and the analysis of function and  
2 servicing of these instruments involving their modification or  
3 adjustment;

4 R. "practice of speech-language pathology" means  
5 the rendering or offering to render to individuals, groups,  
6 organizations or the public any service in speech or language  
7 pathology involving the nonmedical application of principles,  
8 methods and procedures for the measurement, testing, diagnosis,  
9 prognostication, counseling and instruction related to the  
10 development and disorders of communications, speech, fluency,  
11 voice, verbal and written language, auditory comprehension,  
12 cognition, dysphagia, oral pharyngeal or laryngeal sensorimotor  
13 competencies and treatment of persons requiring use of an  
14 augmentative communication device for the purpose of nonmedical  
15 diagnosing, preventing, treating and ameliorating such  
16 disorders and conditions in individuals and groups of  
17 individuals;

18 S. "screening" means a pass-fail procedure to  
19 identify individuals who may require further assessment in the  
20 areas of speech-language pathology, audiology or hearing aid  
21 dispensing;

22 T. "speech-language pathologist" means a person who  
23 ~~[engages]~~ meets the requirements to engage in the practice of  
24 speech-language pathology ~~[and who meets the qualifications set~~  
25 ~~forth in the Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology and Hearing~~

1 ~~Aid Dispensing Practices Act~~];

2 U. "speech-language pathology assistant" means a  
3 person who meets the requirements to assist in the practice of  
4 speech-language pathology;

5 ~~[U.]~~ V. "sponsor" means a licensed hearing aid  
6 dispenser, audiologist or otolaryngologist who has an  
7 endorsement to dispense hearing aids and:

8 (1) is employed in the same business location  
9 where ~~[the]~~ a trainee is being trained; and

10 (2) has been actively engaged in the  
11 dispensing of hearing aids during three of the past five years;

12 ~~[V.]~~ W. "student" means a person who is a full- or  
13 part-time student enrolled in an accredited college or  
14 university program in speech-language pathology, audiology or  
15 communicative disorders;

16 ~~[W.]~~ X. "supervisor" means a speech-language  
17 pathologist or audiologist licensed pursuant to the provisions  
18 of the Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology and Hearing Aid  
19 Dispensing Practices Act who provides supervision in the area  
20 of speech-language pathology or audiology; and

21 ~~[X.]~~ Y. "trainee" means a person working toward  
22 full licensure as a hearing aid dispenser under the direct  
23 supervision of a sponsor."

24 **SECTION 3.** A new section of the Speech-Language  
25 Pathology, Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensing Practices Act,

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1 Section 61-14B-3.3 NMSA 1978, is enacted to read:

2 "61-14B-3.3. [NEW MATERIAL] SCOPE OF PRACTICE--SPEECH-  
3 LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT.--

4 A. The scope of practice for a speech-language  
5 pathology assistant is to assist a speech-language pathologist  
6 with administrative, clinically related and clinical tasks that  
7 are planned, selected, directed or designed by the speech-  
8 language pathology assistant's appropriate supervisor. The  
9 appropriate supervisor of a speech-language pathology assistant  
10 may delegate to a speech-language pathology assistant certain  
11 repetitive, mechanical or routine tasks that fall within the  
12 scope of the practice of speech-language pathology. The  
13 appropriate supervisor of a speech-language pathology assistant  
14 retains the same legal and ethical responsibility for every  
15 patient to whom the speech-language pathology assistant  
16 provides services as the supervisor would if treating the  
17 patient the supervisor's self. The scope of practice for a  
18 speech-language pathology assistant may include:

19 (1) providing clerical, administrative,  
20 prevention, advocacy and clinically related support to a  
21 supervising speech-language pathologist;

22 (2) at the discretion of the supervising  
23 speech-language pathologist, assisting with or conducting  
24 speech, language and hearing screenings without providing  
25 clinical interpretation;

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1 (3) documenting a patient's performance and  
2 reporting the information to the supervising speech-language  
3 pathologist;

4 (4) assisting a supervising speech-language  
5 pathologist in the provision of services to a patient who  
6 speaks a language other than English, if the speech-language  
7 pathology assistant has demonstrated competency in the language  
8 the patient speaks;

9 (5) programming and providing instruction in  
10 the use of augmentative and alternative communication devices;

11 (6) providing guidance and treatment via  
12 telepractice to students who are selected by an appropriate  
13 supervisor; and

14 (7) assisting and supporting an appropriate  
15 supervisor during feeding and swallowing evaluations and  
16 treatments.

17 B. A speech-language pathology assistant shall not:

18 (1) represent the speech-language pathology  
19 assistant's self as a speech-language pathologist;

20 (2) disclose clinical or confidential  
21 information either orally or in writing to anyone other than  
22 the supervising speech-language pathologist, unless otherwise  
23 provided by law;

24 (3) perform or interpret diagnostic tests,  
25 instrumental dysphagia exams, feeding assessments or swallowing

1 assessments or strategies;

2 (4) write, develop or modify a patient's  
3 treatment plan;

4 (5) provide interpretative information to a  
5 patient or a patient's family regarding the patient's status or  
6 services;

7 (6) select patients or plan treatment  
8 sessions;

9 (7) design or select augmentative or  
10 alternative communication systems or devices;

11 (8) independently treat a person who has a  
12 chronic physical condition that results in a prolonged  
13 dependency on medical care for which daily skilled nursing  
14 intervention is medically necessary;

15 (9) discharge a patient from therapy services;  
16 or

17 (10) make referrals for additional service.

18 C. The board shall promulgate rules to outline the  
19 types of procedures that a speech-language pathology assistant  
20 may or may not perform under the supervision of an appropriate  
21 supervisor."

22 SECTION 4. Section 61-14B-9 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1996,  
23 Chapter 57, Section 9, as amended) is amended to read:

24 "61-14B-9. BOARD CREATED.--

25 A. There is created the "speech-language pathology,

1 audiology and hearing aid dispensing practices board" that  
2 shall be administratively attached to the department.

3 B. The board [~~shall consist~~] consists of eleven  
4 members who have been New Mexico residents for at least five  
5 years prior to their appointment. Among the membership, three  
6 members shall be licensed speech-language pathologists, two  
7 members shall be licensed audiologists, two members shall be  
8 licensed hearing aid dispensers, one member shall be a  
9 [~~licensed otolaryngologist~~] speech-language pathology assistant  
10 and three members shall represent the public and have no  
11 interest, direct or indirect, in the profession regulated.

12 C. A licensed member of the board shall not hold  
13 any elected or appointed office in any related professional  
14 organization."

15 SECTION 5. A new section of the Speech-Language  
16 Pathology, Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensing Practices Act,  
17 Section 61-14B-15.2 NMSA 1978, is enacted to read:

18 "61-14B-15.2. [NEW MATERIAL] REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE--  
19 SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT.--A license to practice as  
20 a speech-language pathology assistant shall be issued by the  
21 board to a person who files a completed application, pays the  
22 required fees and submits documentation and evidence to  
23 demonstrate that the person:

24 A. has successfully achieved each of the following  
25 requirements:

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1 (1) completion of a speech-language pathology  
2 assistant educational program that meets the standards of a  
3 national speech-language-hearing association;

4 (2) passage of a nationally recognized  
5 standard examination for speech-language pathology assistant  
6 verification; and

7 (3) completion of at least one hundred  
8 supervised clinical hours under the supervision of a certified  
9 speech-language pathologist; or

10 B. holds active certification as a speech-language  
11 pathology assistant from a nationally recognized certification  
12 body and proof of passage of a state jurisprudence exam for  
13 speech-language pathology assistants."

14 SECTION 6. A new section of the Speech-Language  
15 Pathology, Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensing Practices Act,  
16 Section 61-14B-15.3 NMSA 1978, is enacted to read:

17 "61-14B-15.3. [NEW MATERIAL] SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY  
18 ASSISTANT SUPERVISION REQUIREMENTS.--

19 A. A speech-language pathology assistant shall be  
20 supervised by an appropriate supervisor who:

21 (1) has consented in writing to supervise the  
22 speech-language pathology assistant;

23 (2) is licensed pursuant to the Speech-  
24 Language Pathology, Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensing  
25 Practices Act; and

1 (3) has completed a minimum of two hours of  
2 board-approved training in clinical instruction and  
3 supervision.

4 B. An appropriate supervisor shall:

5 (1) provide supervision to no more than two  
6 full-time or three part-time speech-language pathology  
7 assistants;

8 (2) be responsible for an entire caseload and  
9 workload. The appropriate supervisor shall ensure that the  
10 speech-language pathology assistant does not have an individual  
11 caseload or workload that is separate from the appropriate  
12 supervisor's;

13 (3) be present for the first and last contact  
14 with each patient;

15 (4) provide a level of supervision necessary  
16 for each situation, based on the:

17 (a) competencies, skills and experience  
18 of the speech-language pathology assistant;

19 (b) needs of the patient being served;  
20 and

21 (c) service setting; and

22 (5) provide immediate feedback to a speech-  
23 language pathology assistant when the assistant is providing  
24 services to a patient that require the expertise of a speech-  
25 language pathologist."

1           SECTION 7. Section 61-14B-16.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws  
2 2022, Chapter 39, Section 63) is amended to read:

3           "61-14B-16.1. EXPEDITED LICENSURE.--

4           A. The board shall issue an expedited license  
5 without examination to a speech-language pathologist, speech-  
6 language pathology assistant, audiologist or hearing aid  
7 dispenser licensed in another licensing jurisdiction in  
8 accordance with Section 61-1-31.1 NMSA 1978. The board shall  
9 issue the expedited license as soon as practicable but no later  
10 than thirty days after the person files an application with the  
11 required fees and demonstrates that the person holds a valid,  
12 unrestricted license and is in good standing with the licensing  
13 board in the other licensing jurisdiction. If the board issues  
14 an expedited license to a person whose prior licensing  
15 jurisdiction did not require examination, the board may require  
16 the person to pass an examination before license renewal.

17           B. The board by rule shall determine the states and  
18 territories of the United States and the District of Columbia  
19 from which it will not accept an applicant for expedited  
20 licensure and determine any foreign countries from which it  
21 will accept an applicant for expedited licensure. The board  
22 shall post the lists of disapproved and approved licensing  
23 jurisdictions on its website. The list of disapproved  
24 licensing jurisdictions shall include specific reasons for  
25 disapproval. The lists shall be reviewed annually to determine

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1 if amendments to the rule are warranted."

2 SECTION 8. Section 61-14B-20 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1996,  
3 Chapter 57, Section 20, as amended) is amended to read:

4 "61-14B-20. FEES.--Except as provided in Section 61-1-34  
5 NMSA 1978, the board shall establish a schedule of reasonable  
6 fees for applications, licenses, renewal of licenses, exams,  
7 penalties and administrative fees. The license and license  
8 renewal fees shall not exceed:

9 A. one hundred dollars (\$100) for clinical fellows,  
10 speech-language pathology assistants and apprentices in speech  
11 and language;

12 B. two hundred dollars (\$200) for audiologists or  
13 speech-language pathologists;

14 C. six hundred dollars (\$600) for hearing aid  
15 dispensers;

16 D. four hundred dollars (\$400) for examinations;

17 E. one hundred dollars (\$100) for late renewal  
18 fees;

19 F. four hundred dollars (\$400) for hearing aid  
20 dispensing endorsement;

21 G. five hundred dollars (\$500) for a hearing aid  
22 dispenser trainee license, which fee includes examination, both  
23 written and practical;

24 H. one hundred dollars (\$100) for bilingual-  
25 multicultural endorsement; and

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1 I. reasonable administrative fees."

2 SECTION 9. Section 61-14B-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1996,  
3 Chapter 57, Section 2, as amended by Section 2 of this act) is  
4 repealed and a new Section 61-14B-2 NMSA 1978 is enacted to  
5 read:

6 "61-14B-2. [NEW MATERIAL] DEFINITIONS.--As used in the  
7 Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensing  
8 Practices Act:

9 A. "appropriate supervisor" means a person licensed  
10 pursuant to the provisions of the Speech-Language Pathology,  
11 Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensing Practices Act who has a  
12 minimum of two years' experience as a speech-language  
13 pathologist after the clinical fellowship year;

14 B. "auditory trainer" means a custom-fitted FM  
15 amplifying instrument other than a hearing aid designed to  
16 enhance signal-to-noise ratios;

17 C. "audiologist" means a person who meets the  
18 requirements to engage in the practice of audiology, who may or  
19 may not dispense hearing aids;

20 D. "bilingual-multicultural endorsement" means an  
21 endorsement that is issued pursuant to the Speech-Language  
22 Pathology, Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensing Practices Act  
23 to a qualified speech-language pathologist and that recognizes  
24 the licensee's or applicant's demonstrated proficiency in the  
25 use of languages other than English to provide speech-language

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1 pathology services;

2 E. "board" means the speech-language pathology,  
3 audiology and hearing aid dispensing practices board;

4 F. "business location" means a permanent physical  
5 business location in New Mexico where records can be examined  
6 and process served;

7 G. "certification by a national professional  
8 association" means certification issued by a board-approved  
9 national speech-language or hearing association;

10 H. "clinical fellow" means a person who has  
11 completed all academic course work and practicum requirements  
12 for a master's degree or the equivalent in speech-language  
13 pathology and meets the requirements to engage in the practice  
14 of speech-language pathology;

15 I. "clinical fellowship year" or "CFY" means the  
16 time following the completion of all academic course work and  
17 practicum requirements for a master's degree in speech-language  
18 pathology and during which a clinical fellow is working toward  
19 certification by a national professional association;

20 J. "department" means the regulation and licensing  
21 department;

22 K. "hearing aid" means a wearable instrument or  
23 device designed or offered for the purpose of aiding or  
24 compensating for impaired human hearing and any parts,  
25 attachments or accessories, including earmolds but excluding

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1 batteries and cords;

2 L. "hearing aid dispenser" means a person other  
3 than an audiologist or an otolaryngologist who is licensed to  
4 sell, fit and service hearing aids pursuant to the Speech-  
5 Language Pathology, Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensing  
6 Practices Act and maintains or occupies a permanent physical  
7 business location in New Mexico where records can be examined  
8 and process can be served;

9 M. "otolaryngologist" means a licensed physician  
10 who has completed a recognized residency in otolaryngology and  
11 is certified by the American board of otolaryngology;

12 N. "paraprofessional" means a person who provides  
13 adjunct speech-pathology or audiology services under the direct  
14 supervision of a licensed speech-language pathologist or  
15 audiologist;

16 O. "practice of audiology" means the application of  
17 principles, methods and procedures of measurement, testing,  
18 appraisal, prognostication, aural rehabilitation, aural  
19 habilitation, consultation, hearing aid selection and fitting,  
20 counseling, instruction and research related to hearing and  
21 disorders of hearing for the purpose of nonmedical diagnosis,  
22 prevention, identification, amelioration or the modification of  
23 communicative disorders involving speech, language auditory  
24 function or other aberrant behavior related to hearing  
25 disorders;

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1           P. "practice of hearing aid dispensing" means the  
2 behavioral measurement of human hearing for the purpose of the  
3 selection and fitting of hearing aids or other rehabilitative  
4 devices to ameliorate the dysfunction of hearing sensitivity;  
5 this may include otoscopic inspection of the ear, fabrication  
6 of ear impressions and earmolds, instruction, consultation and  
7 counseling on the use and care of these instruments, medical  
8 referral when appropriate and the analysis of function and  
9 servicing of these instruments involving their modification or  
10 adjustment;

11           Q. "practice of speech-language pathology" means  
12 the rendering or offering to render to individuals, groups,  
13 organizations or the public any service in speech or language  
14 pathology involving the nonmedical application of principles,  
15 methods and procedures for the measurement, testing, diagnosis,  
16 prognostication, counseling and instruction related to the  
17 development and disorders of communications, speech, fluency,  
18 voice, verbal and written language, auditory comprehension,  
19 cognition, dysphagia, oral pharyngeal or laryngeal sensorimotor  
20 competencies and treatment of persons requiring use of an  
21 augmentative communication device for the purpose of nonmedical  
22 diagnosing, preventing, treating and ameliorating such  
23 disorders and conditions in individuals and groups of  
24 individuals;

25           R. "screening" means a pass-fail procedure to

1 identify individuals who may require further assessment in the  
2 areas of speech-language pathology, audiology or hearing aid  
3 dispensing;

4 S. "speech-language pathologist" means a person who  
5 meets the requirements to engage in the practice of speech-  
6 language pathology;

7 T. "speech-language pathology assistant" means a  
8 person who meets the requirements to assist in the practice of  
9 speech-language pathology;

10 U. "sponsor" means a licensed hearing aid  
11 dispenser, audiologist or otolaryngologist who has an  
12 endorsement to dispense hearing aids and:

13 (1) is employed in the same business location  
14 where a trainee is being trained; and

15 (2) has been actively engaged in the  
16 dispensing of hearing aids during three of the past five years;

17 V. "student" means a person who is a full- or part-  
18 time student enrolled in an accredited college or university  
19 program in speech-language pathology, audiology or  
20 communicative disorders;

21 W. "supervisor" means a speech-language pathologist  
22 or audiologist licensed pursuant to the provisions of the  
23 Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensing  
24 Practices Act who provides supervision in the area of speech-  
25 language pathology or audiology; and

1 X. "trainee" means a person working toward full  
2 licensure as a hearing aid dispenser under the direct  
3 supervision of a sponsor."

4 SECTION 10. Section 61-14B-19 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1996,  
5 Chapter 57, Section 19, as amended) is amended to read:

6 "61-14B-19. LICENSE RENEWAL.--

7 A. Each licensee shall renew the licensee's license  
8 biennially by submitting a renewal application as provided for  
9 in the board's regulations. The board may require proof of  
10 continuing education as a requirement for renewal. The board  
11 may establish a method to provide for staggered biennial terms.  
12 The board may authorize license renewal for one year to  
13 establish the renewal cycle.

14 B. A sixty-day grace period shall be allowed to  
15 each licensee after each licensing period. A license may be  
16 renewed during the grace period upon payment of a renewal fee  
17 and a late fee as prescribed by the board.

18 C. Any license not renewed by the end of the grace  
19 period will be considered expired and the licensee shall not be  
20 eligible to practice within the state until the license is  
21 renewed. The board shall develop rules regarding requirements  
22 for renewal of an expired license and may require the licensee  
23 to reapply as a new applicant.

24 D. Clinical fellow licenses may be renewed annually  
25 for no more than three years; provided the clinical fellow has

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1 submitted evidence of passing a recognized standard national  
2 examination in speech-language pathology prior to or within the  
3 clinical fellow's second year of the CFY. The CFY license  
4 shall not be renewed for a second year without evidence of  
5 passing a recognized standard national examination in speech-  
6 language pathology.

7 ~~[E. An apprentice in speech-language pathology~~  
8 ~~shall renew the apprentice's license annually; provided that~~  
9 ~~the apprentice is accepted into a master's-level program in~~  
10 ~~speech-language pathology or communicative disorders within two~~  
11 ~~years of initial licensing.~~

12 ~~F.]~~ E. The board may issue rules providing for  
13 inactive status of licenses."

14 **SECTION 11.** Section 61-14B-20 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1996,  
15 Chapter 57, Section 20, as amended by Section 8 of this act) is  
16 repealed and a new Section 61-14B-20 NMSA 1978 is enacted to  
17 read:

18 "61-14B-20. [NEW MATERIAL] FEES.--Except as provided in  
19 Section 61-1-34 NMSA 1978, the board shall establish a schedule  
20 of reasonable fees for applications, licenses, renewal of  
21 licenses, exams, penalties and administrative fees. The  
22 license and license renewal fees shall not exceed:

23 A. one hundred dollars (\$100) for clinical fellows  
24 and speech-language pathology assistants;

25 B. two hundred dollars (\$200) for audiologists or

1 speech-language pathologists;

2 C. six hundred dollars (\$600) for hearing aid  
3 dispensers;

4 D. four hundred dollars (\$400) for examinations;

5 E. one hundred dollars (\$100) for late renewal  
6 fees;

7 F. four hundred dollars (\$400) for hearing aid  
8 dispensing endorsement;

9 G. five hundred dollars (\$500) for a hearing aid  
10 dispenser trainee license, which fee includes examination, both  
11 written and practical;

12 H. one hundred dollars (\$100) for bilingual-  
13 multicultural endorsement; and

14 I. reasonable administrative fees."

15 SECTION 12. DELAYED REPEAL.--Sections 61-14B-3.1 and  
16 61-14B-15.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1999, Chapter 128, Sections 3  
17 and 8, as amended) are repealed effective January 1, 2028.

18 SECTION 13. EFFECTIVE DATES.--

19 A. The effective date of the provisions of Sections  
20 1 through 8 of this act is July 1, 2026.

21 B. The effective date of the provisions of Sections  
22 9 through 11 of this act is January 1, 2028.