

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 .232699.5

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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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

B. A speech-language pathology assistant shall not:

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

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

(3) perform or interpret diagnostic tests, 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,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

B. An appropriate supervisor shall:

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

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

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

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

(a) competencies, skills and experience of the speech-language pathology assistant:

(b) needs of the patient being served;

(c) service setting; and

(5) provide immediate feedback to a speech-language pathology assistant when the assistant is providing services to a patient that require the expertise of a speech-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

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

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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

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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

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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.