



SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, the Alabama Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology is responsible for establishing, by administrative rule, the minimum qualifications for speech-language pathology assistants.

This bill would provide for the qualifications for registration as a speech-language pathology assistant under the board.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to the Alabama Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology; to add Section 34-28A-21.1 to the Code of Alabama 1975, to provide further for the minimum qualifications for registration as a speech-language pathology assistant.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 34-28A-21.1 is added to the Code of Alabama 1975, to read as follows:

§34-28A-21.1

(a) Any person not eligible for a license under this



chapter may register with the board as a speech-language pathology assistant. Eligible candidates for registration as a speech-language pathology assistant shall do all of the following:

(1) Practice only under the supervision of a licensed speech-language pathologist.

(2) Have completed the minimum of 30 semester credit hours at a community college or university in speech and hearing sciences or communication disorders, of which three hours shall be dedicated to studying language disorders, and three hours shall be focused on speech disorders.

Additionally, a speech-language pathology assistant in an associate degree program shall successfully complete not less than 100 clinical practicum hours under the supervision of a credentialed speech-language pathologist under any clinical practicum setting. A speech-language pathology assistant who does not hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent in speech and hearing sciences or communication disorders shall provide services in an educational, private practice, nonresidential health care, early intervention, and other nonhospital settings.

(b) For the purposes of this section, "community college" refers to Wallace State Community College-Hanceville, under the purview of the Alabama Community College System, and "university" refers to any four-year public institution of higher education located in this state.

(c) (1) A speech-language pathology assistant shall have a scope of practice as defined by the American



Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

(2) The supervising speech-language pathologist shall have held a full, unrestricted speech-language pathologist license for at least two years before supervising the speech-language pathology assistant and possess the necessary credentials required by the board. A supervising speech-language pathologist may not supervise more than three full-time equivalent speech-language pathology assistants in any one setting.

(d) Registration as a speech-language pathology assistant may be renewed annually, pursuant to this chapter, without limitation as to number of times renewed.

Section 2. This act shall become effective on January 1, 2026.