

HB441 ENGROSSED



1 HB441
2 84YRI2H-2
3 By Representatives Standridge, Collins
4 RFD: Health
5 First Read: 18-Mar-25



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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



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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



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57 assistant may be renewed annually, pursuant to this chapter,
58 without limitation as to number of times renewed.

59 Section 2. This act shall become effective on January
60 1, 2026.



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House of Representatives

64 Read for the first time and referred18-Mar-25
65 to the House of Representatives
66 committee on Health
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68 Read for the second time and placed09-Apr-25
69 on the calendar:
70 0 amendments
71
72 Read for the third time and passed22-Apr-25
73 as amended
74 Yeas 87
75 Nays 2
76 Abstains 13
77
78

79 John Treadwell
80 Clerk
81