



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 licensure 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 licensure 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 as a



speech-language pathologist under this chapter may apply for licensure with the board as a speech-language pathology assistant. Eligible candidates for licensure 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 either of the following:

a. A bachelor's degree or equivalent in speech and hearing sciences or communication disorders.

b. An associate degree in speech-language pathology assisting with a 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 licensed speech-language pathologist under any clinical practicum setting.

(3) If the speech-language pathology assistant has completed the requirements of paragraph (2)b., he or she may only 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,



57 under the purview of the Alabama Community College System, and
58 "university" refers to any four-year public institution of
59 higher education located in this state.

60 (c) (1) A speech-language pathology assistant shall have
61 a scope of practice as defined by the American
62 Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

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

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

74 (e) The Alabama Board of Examiners for Speech-Language
75 Pathology and Audiology shall adopt rules as necessary to
76 implement this section.

77 Section 2. This act shall become effective on January
78 1, 2026.