



Senate Fiscal Agency
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**BILL ANALYSIS**

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Senate Bill 493 (Substitute S-2 as reported)
Sponsor: Senator Gilda Z. Jacobs
Committee: Health Policy

CONTENT

The bill would add Part 176 (Speech-Language Pathology) to the Public Health Code to:

- Prohibit a person from engaging in the practice of speech-language pathology unless licensed by the Department of Community Health (DCH).
- Prescribe licensure criteria, including a master's or doctor of science or philosophy degree in speech-language pathology.
- Allow a speech-language pathologist to perform assessment, treatment or therapy, and procedures related to swallowing disorders and medically related communication disorders only on a patient referred by a physician.
- Require a speech-language pathologist to perform limited diagnostic testing in collaboration with or under the supervision of a physician, and to refer a patient to a physician under certain circumstances.
- Require the DCH to promulgate rules regarding the performance of speech-language pathology.
- Require the DCH, by rule, to prescribe continuing education development as a condition for license renewal.
- Create the Michigan Board of Speech-Language Pathology.

The bill also would amend the Code to set a \$20 application processing fee and a \$75 annual license fee for an individual licensed or seeking licensure under Part 176.

Proposed MCL 333.16342 et al.

Legislative Analyst: Suzanne Lowe

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would require the State to incur costs associated with the establishment and operations of the Michigan Board of Speech-Language Pathology. In addition, the State could expect to experience a mild increase in administrative costs as a result of processing applications and maintaining a database of licensed speech pathologists.

An estimate by the Michigan Speech-Language-Hearing Association suggests that about 3,500 professionals in Michigan would be eligible to become State-licensed speech pathologists under the standards of this bill. If this estimate is assumed to be valid, then the State could expect to collect approximately \$262,500 per year in license fees.

Date Completed: 6-25-08

Fiscal Analyst: Matthew Grabowski

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Analysis available @ <http://www.michiganlegislature.org>

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