

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY TEMPORARY EDUCATIONAL LIMITED TEMPORARY LICENSE

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House Bill 4101 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Curt S. VanderWall
Committee: Health Policy
Revised 10-3-23

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4101 would amend the Public Health Code to extend, from 12 months to 24 months, the maximum period for which a temporary license for completing a supervised postgraduate clinical experience in speech-language pathology may be issued. The bill also would allow a temporary license to be renewed for three additional 12-month terms if the applicant continues to qualify as described below.

Speech-language pathologists provide an array of services for individuals with communication and swallowing difficulties, from infants in a hospital neonatal intensive care to the elderly. To obtain a license as a speech-language pathologist, a graduate of a master's or doctoral program must complete 1,260 hours of supervised postgraduate clinical experience.

The act provides for a temporary license (known as a speech-language pathology educational limited temporary license) for the purpose of completing a supervised postgraduate clinical experience. An individual seeking a temporary license must obtain it before beginning that clinical experience.

To be eligible for the temporary license, the applicant must meet both of the following:

- The applicant must have a master's or doctor of science or doctor of philosophy degree in speech-language pathology that is acceptable to the Michigan Board of Speech-Language Pathology and must have their academic institution transmit their academic transcripts directly to the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA).
- The applicant must submit a plan for supervised postgraduate clinical experience on a form approved by the board and signed by a licensed professional who will provide supervision.

An individual who holds a speech-language pathology educational limited temporary license cannot work without supervision. At the conclusion of the individual's clinical experience, their supervisor must sign and submit to LARA a report documenting the individual's successful completion of the clinical experience.

As noted above, the period of the temporary license is currently 12 months, which the bill would extend to 24 months. In addition, the temporary license is currently nonrenewable. The bill would allow it to be renewed for three more 12-month terms (for a total of five years) as long as the applicant continues to be eligible as described above.

MCL 333.17609

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 4101 would have an indeterminate fiscal impact on the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, as the impact would largely depend on the choices of individual licensees. Under the provisions of the bill, some licensees would likely choose to renew their educational limited temporary license, which currently has a lower associated fee than the standard license. Under current law, the temporary license is valid for 12 months, but the bill would increase this period to 24 months. It is unclear whether the department would increase the fee to reflect this longer period. The current fee associated with a speech-language pathologist educational limited temporary license is \$102.70 for 12 months, while the total fee for a speech-language pathologist license is \$183.80 for 2 years. For reference, as of September 2023, there are 313 active temporary licenses.

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