

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill modifies provisions related to speech-language pathologists and audiologists; hearing instrument dispensers; and occupational therapists.

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- 1** **Master's or doctoral degree required.** Amends §148.515, subdivision 2. Adds that an institution's master's or doctoral degree program, in addition to accreditation, must meet current requirements.

 Effective date. This section is effective the day following final enactment.
- 2** **Dispensing audiologist examination requirements.** Amends Minnesota Statutes 2005 Supplement, §148.515, subdivision 6. Provides that an applicant for an audiologist license who has a temporary license may dispense hearing aids only under the supervision of a licensed audiologist who dispenses hearing aids.

 Effective date. This section is effective the day following final enactment.
- 3** **Temporary license.** Amends §148.5175. Allows individuals to apply for a temporary license to practice speech-language pathology, audiology, or both without applying for a permanent license.

 Effective date. This section is effective the day following final enactment.
- 4** **Licensure following lapse of licensure status.** Amends §148.518. Provides an additional means by which to apply for renewal of a lapsed license. Allows an individual to apply for

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renewal according to §148.5191 and provide documentation of obtaining a qualifying score on the National Examination in Speech-Language Pathology or Audiology described in 148.515, subdivision 4, within one year of the application for license renewal.

Effective date. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

- 5 **Number of contact hours required.** Amends §148.5193, subdivision 1. Makes two cross reference changes to the Minnesota Rules.

Effective date. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

- 6 **Authority to contract.** Amends §148.5195, by adding subdivision 7. Instructs the commissioner to contract with the health professionals services program to provide services to practitioners. States that the health professionals services program does not affect the commissioner's authority to discipline violations of chapter 214 (Examining and Licensing Boards).

Effective date. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

- 7 **Approval.** Amends §148.6440, subdivision 7. Provides that after committee verification that a course meets clinical and theoretical requirements, the commissioner may approve a practitioner applications that include required course documentation evidencing completion of the same course.

Effective date. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

- 8 **Standards for determining qualified continuing education activities.** Amends §148.6443, subdivision 2. Adds that for an activity to qualify as a continuing education activity the activity must be conducted by a sponsor approved by the American Occupational Therapy Association to those who may sponsor continuing education.

Effective date. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

- 9 **Activities qualifying for continuing education contact hours.** Amends §148.6443, subdivision 3.

Paragraph (b) Adds that a minimum of one-half hour of required contact hour must be directly related to the occupational therapy practice. Remaining contact hours may be related to occupational therapy practice, the delivery of occupational therapy services, or the to practitioner's current professional role.

Paragraph (d). Allows activities for which an occupational therapist may receive a maximum of six contact hours of continuing education in a two-year period: one contact hour for every eight hours of supervision for occupational therapist or occupational therapist assistant students; teaching or participating in courses related to leisure activities, recreational activities, or hobbies if these interventions are used in the therapist's practice; and engaging in research activities associated with grants, postgraduate studies, or professional publications.

Paragraph (e). Allows a licensee to obtain a maximum of two contact hours in a two-year period for continuing education in payment systems, including covered services, coding,

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documentation, and billing.

Effective date. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

- 10** **Activities not qualifying for continuing education contact hours.** Amends §148.6443, subdivision 4. Deletes language regarding activities not qualifying as continuing education.

Effective date. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

- 11** **Authority to contract.** Amends §148.6448, by adding subdivision 6. Allows the commissioner to contract with the health professionals services program to provide services to practitioners. States that the health professionals services program does not affect the commissioner's authority to discipline violations of chapter 214 (Examining and Licensing Boards).

Effective date. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

- 12** **Hearing instrument dispensing.** Amends 153A.13, subdivision 4. Allows an individual to dispense hearing instruments regardless of whether the individual has a monetary interest in the sale of hearing instruments to the consumer.

Effective date. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

- 13** **Reciprocity.** Amends Minnesota Statutes 2005 Supplement, §153A.14, subdivision 4c. Deletes the requirement that a person who has dispensed hearing instruments in another jurisdiction must be applying for certification as a hearing instrument dispenser in order to work as a trainee.

Effective date. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

- 14** **Authority to contract.** Amends §153.15, by addition subdivision 5. Allows the commissioner to contract with the health professionals services program to provide services to practitioners. States that the health professionals services program does not affect the commissioner's authority to discipline violations of chapter 214 (Examining and Licensing Boards).

Effective date. This section is effective the day following final enactment.