

HF1122 - 1E - "Licensure Speech-Language Path Assistants"

Chief Author: **Tony Albright**
 Committee: **Health and Human Services Finance**
 Date Completed: **03/28/2018**
 Agency: **Health Dept**

State Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
Expenditures	X	
Fee/Departmental Earnings	X	
Tax Revenue		X
Information Technology	X	
Local Fiscal Impact		
		X

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions shown in the parentheses.

State Cost (Savings)	Biennium			Biennium	
	Dollars in Thousands	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020
State Government Special Rev	-	-	7	22	(20)
Total	-	-	7	22	(20)
Biennial Total			7		2

Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)	Biennium			Biennium	
	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021
State Government Special Rev	-	-	.49	.24	.24
Total	-	-	.49	.24	.24

Executive Budget Officer's Comment

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with MMB's Fiscal Note policies.

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State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions are shown in parentheses.

*Transfers In/Out and Absorbed Costs are only displayed when reported.

State Cost (Savings) = 1-2		Biennium			Biennium	
Dollars in Thousands		FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021
State Government Special Rev		-	-	7	22	(20)
Total		-	-	7	22	(20)
Biennial Total				7		2
1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out*						
State Government Special Rev		-	-	52	26	26
Total		-	-	52	26	26
Biennial Total				52		52
2 - Revenues, Transfers In*						
State Government Special Rev		-	-	45	4	46
Total		-	-	45	4	46
Biennial Total				45		50

Bill Description

This bill amends an existing statute and establishes a licensure system for speech language pathology assistants that provides full licensure or restricted licensure. The bill sets educational requirements and licensure fees, creates title protection, and details actions for violations of the statute. The program is administered by the Health Occupations Program, Department of Health.

Assumptions

Under the current regulations, Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) licensed speech language pathologists can delegate certain duties to speech language pathology assistants. Under this bill, the Department would begin licensing speech language pathology assistants effective January 1, 2019. This new responsibility would require MDH to hire staff to carry out the licensure and regulatory duties authorized in this bill, an information technology system for administering the program, and other non-personnel costs associated with operating a regulatory program.

Staff workload will be greater in FY2019 as we notify practitioners of new licensing requirements; educate regarding statutory requirements; receive and process initial applications for licensure, including evaluation of supporting documentation. We assume the initial application and subsequent renewals will be accomplished through an online licensing system, including the collection of licensing fees, document uploads, and issuance letters. Ongoing tasks will include processing applications for initial licensure and renewals, responding to questions from practitioners and the public, investigating complaints, and pursuing discipline and enforcement.

The bill requires the commissioner to appoint an additional member to the already-existing advisory council. That individual must be a speech language pathology assistant. The council meets quarterly with a per diem rate of \$55. Expenses to support the advisory council are estimated at \$110 per person per council meeting.

We assume information technology costs of \$6,000 in FY2019 and \$2,100 annually thereafter to:

- Display information through a speech language pathology assistant webpage.
- Track a licensing system and related requirements.
- Track a system of complaints and disciplinary actions.

- Make reports, including the number of licensed speech language pathology assistants, complaint and discipline data, and track program fees and expenditures.

Other operating expenses include direct staff costs for communications and supplies.

There are currently 1,721 speech language pathologists licensed by the Department of Health. We assume that about 20% of the licensed speech language pathologists delegate duties to an unlicensed assistant. We assume that approximately 70 individuals currently employed to assist speech language pathologists, licensed by MDH, will be eligible and will apply for a full unrestricted license; and 275 individuals will be eligible and apply for a restricted license in FY19. We estimate a growth rate of 10% annually as those with a restricted license complete the educational and clinical requirements for an unrestricted license, new students graduate from accredited programs and paraprofessionals employed in educational settings will seek a MDH speech language pathology assistant license.

Because this is an emerging field, we estimate a very small percentage of assistants will choose not to renew their licenses. In order to recover the cost of performing the regulatory activities over a five-year period, the initial fee is \$130 for a two year license, plus a one-time surcharge for processing background checks and a biennial renewal fee of \$120.

Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula

FISCAL TRACKING (dollars in thousands)						
FUND	BACT	DESCRIPTION	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
1200	03	Health Protection	-	52	26	26
1200	REV	Licensing Revenue	-	45	4	46
1200		NET COST (SAVINGS)	-	7	22	(20)

EXPENDITURE (dollars in thousands)				
DESCRIPTION	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Salary and Fringe	-	34	18	18
Contracts	-	-	-	-
Grants & Aid	-	-	-	-
Other Operating	-	8	3	3
Administrative Indirect	-	10	5	5
TOTAL EXPENSES	-	52	26	26

REVENUE UNITS (estimated number)					
DESCRIPTION	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Initial Renewal Fee	345	35	38	42	46
Renewal Fee	-	-	345	35	383

Long-Term Fiscal Considerations

IMPACT (dollars in thousands)					
DESCRIPTION	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Expenditure	52	26	26	26	26
Revenue	45	4	46	10	52
ANNUAL COST (SAVINGS)	7	22	(20)	17	(26)
FIVE-YEAR NET COST (SAVINGS)					1

Local Fiscal Impact

References/Sources

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