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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1561 Session of  
2013

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INTRODUCED BY OBERLANDER, V. BROWN, COHEN, D. COSTA, COX,  
M. DALEY, FARINA, GINGRICH, C. HARRIS, KILLION, LUCAS,  
MCGINNIS, MILLARD, MOUL, PAINTER, QUINN, RAPP, READSHAW,  
REED, SABATINA, SANTARSIERO AND WATSON, JUNE 19, 2013

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, JUNE 19, 2013

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AN ACT

1 Amending the act of December 21, 1984 (P.L.1253, No.238),  
2 entitled "An act regulating the practice of speech-language  
3 pathologists, audiologists and teachers of the hearing  
4 impaired; creating the State Board of Examiners in Speech-  
5 Language and Hearing with certain powers and duties; and  
6 prescribing penalties," further providing for the title and  
7 short title of the act, for declaration of policy, for  
8 definitions, for powers and duties of board, for license  
9 required, persons and practices not affected and exclusions,  
10 for requirements for licensure, for refusal to issue,  
11 suspension and revocation and for requirement of a medical  
12 examination; and providing for title.

13 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
14 hereby enacts as follows:

15 Section 1. The title and sections 1 and 2 of the act of  
16 December 21, 1984 (P.L.1253, No.238), known as the Speech-  
17 Language and Hearing Licensure Act, are amended to read:

18 AN ACT

19 Regulating the practice of speech-language pathologists, school-  
20 based speech-language pathologists, audiologists and teachers  
21 of the hearing impaired; creating the State Board of  
22 Examiners in Speech-Language [and Hearing] Pathology and

1       Audiology with certain powers and duties; and prescribing  
2       penalties.

3       Section 1.   Short title.

4       This act shall be known and may be cited as the Speech-  
5       Language [and Hearing] Pathologists and Audiologists Licensure  
6       Act.

7       Section 2.   Declaration of policy.

8       It is declared to be the policy of the Commonwealth that the  
9       practice of speech-language pathology, the practice of school-  
10      based speech-language pathology and the practice of audiology  
11      are privileges granted to qualified persons and that, in order  
12      to safeguard the public health, safety and welfare; to protect  
13      the public from being misled or receiving treatment by  
14      incompetent, unscrupulous and unauthorized persons; to protect  
15      the public from unprofessional conduct [on the part of] by  
16      qualified speech-language pathologists, school-based speech-  
17      language pathologists, audiologists and teachers of the hearing  
18      impaired; and to assure the availability of the highest possible  
19      quality of speech-language [and hearing] pathology and audiology  
20      services to the communicatively handicapped people of this  
21      Commonwealth, it is necessary to [regulate persons offering  
22      speech-language and hearing services to the public and persons  
23      functioning under the direction of these specialists] provide  
24      regulatory authority over persons offering speech-language  
25      pathology and audiology services to the public.

26      Section 2.   The definitions of "board" and "speech-language  
27      pathologist" in section 3 of the act are amended and the section  
28      is amended by adding definitions to read:

29      Section 3.   Definitions.

30      The following words and phrases when used in this act shall

1 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
2 context clearly indicates otherwise:

3 \* \* \*

4 "Board." The State Board of Examiners in Speech-Language  
5 [and Hearing] Pathology and Audiology.

6 \* \* \*

7 "Practice of school-based speech-language pathology." The  
8 application, within the setting of a public school entity, of  
9 principles, methods and procedures of prevention, screening,  
10 consultation, identification, assessment and evaluation,  
11 determination of disorders and service delivery model, treatment  
12 and intervention, counseling, telepractice and collaboration and  
13 referral services for persons with known or suspected language,  
14 cognitive and linguistic, social, speech (resonance and voice,  
15 fluency and sound production) feeding and swallowing, orofacial  
16 myofunctional disorders or communication disorders, including,  
17 but not limited to:

18 (1) Elective modification of communication behaviors and  
19 enhancement of communication.

20 (2) Identification of speech, language, swallowing,  
21 cognitive and social aspects of communication by developing  
22 and overseeing speech, language, voice, swallowing, cognitive  
23 and social aspects of communication-related screening  
24 programs for persons of all ages.

25 (3) Providing nonmedical diagnosis, evaluation and  
26 remediation services for disorders of speech, language,  
27 voice, swallowing, cognitive and social aspects of  
28 communication.

29 (4) Establishing augmentative and alternative  
30 communication techniques and strategies, including selecting,

1 recommending and dispensing of augmentative aids and devices.

2 (5) Providing services to individuals with hearing loss  
3 and their families, that is, auditory training, speech  
4 reading and speech and language intervention secondary to  
5 hearing loss.

6 (6) Providing hearing screening limited to pass or fail  
7 for the purposes of identification of individuals with  
8 potential disorders of hearing.

9 (7) The training of individuals, their families and  
10 other communication partners in the use, selecting, fitting  
11 and establishment of effective use of appropriate prosthetic  
12 and adaptive devices for speaking and swallowing.

13 (8) Using instrumental technology to observe, assess and  
14 remediate disorders of communication, voice and swallowing.

15 (9) Referral of persons with speech, language, voice,  
16 swallowing, cognitive and social aspects of communication to  
17 an appropriate physician for medical evaluation when  
18 indicated based upon the interpretation of evaluation  
19 results.

20 (10) Additional scope of practice as defined by the  
21 State Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and  
22 Audiology in accordance with the provisions of section 5.

23 "Practice of speech-language pathology." The application of  
24 principles, methods and procedures of prevention, screening,  
25 consultation, identification, assessment and evaluation,  
26 determination of disorders and service delivery model, treatment  
27 and intervention, counseling, telepractice and collaboration and  
28 referral services for persons with known or suspected language,  
29 cognitive and linguistic, social, speech (resonance and voice,  
30 fluency and sound production) feeding and swallowing, orofacial

1 myofunctional disorders or communication disorders, including,  
2 but not limited to:

3 (1) Elective modification of communication behaviors and  
4 enhancement of communication.

5 (2) Identification of speech, language, swallowing,  
6 cognitive and social aspects of communication by developing  
7 and overseeing speech, language, voice, swallowing, cognitive  
8 and social aspects of communication-related screening  
9 programs for persons of all ages.

10 (3) Providing nonmedical diagnosis, evaluation and  
11 remediation services for disorders of speech, language,  
12 voice, swallowing, cognitive and social aspects of  
13 communication.

14 (4) Establishing augmentative and alternative  
15 communication techniques and strategies, including selecting,  
16 recommending and dispensing of augmentative aids and devices.

17 (5) Providing services to individuals with hearing loss  
18 and their families, that is, auditory training, speech  
19 reading and speech and language intervention secondary to  
20 hearing loss.

21 (6) Providing hearing screening limited to pass or fail  
22 for the purposes of identification of individuals with  
23 potential disorders of hearing.

24 (7) The training of individuals, their families and  
25 other communication partners in the use, selecting, fitting  
26 and establishment of effective use of appropriate prosthetic  
27 and adaptive devices for speaking and swallowing.

28 (8) Using instrumental technology to observe, assess and  
29 remediate disorders of communication, voice and swallowing.

30 (9) Referral of persons with speech, language, voice,

1 swallowing, cognitive and social aspects of communication to  
2 an appropriate physician for medical evaluation when  
3 indicated based upon the interpretation of evaluation  
4 results.

5 (10) Additional scope of practice as defined by the  
6 State Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and  
7 Audiology in accordance with the provisions of section 5.

8 "Public school entity." A public school district,  
9 intermediate unit, charter school or cyber charter school.

10 "School-based speech-language pathologist." Any person who  
11 is licensed under this act to engage in the practice of school-  
12 based speech-language pathology and is a practitioner employed  
13 by and practicing solely within a public school entity. A person  
14 is deemed to be or to hold himself out as being a school-based  
15 speech-language pathologist if the person offers services and  
16 functions defined under this act as the practice of school-based  
17 speech-language pathology or offers to treat any disorders that  
18 may be treated by a licensed school-based speech-language  
19 pathologist under any title incorporating the terms speech-  
20 language pathology, speech-language pathologist, speech  
21 consultant, speech therapist, voice therapist, aphasiologist,  
22 orofacial myologist, dysphagia therapist or any variation,  
23 synonym, coinage or similar title that expresses, employs or  
24 implies these terms, names or functions.

25 "Speech-language pathologist." Any person who is qualified  
26 by [training and experience] education, training and clinical  
27 experience and is licensed under this act to engage in the  
28 practice of [the evaluation, counseling, habilitation and  
29 rehabilitation of individuals whose communicative disorders  
30 involve the function of speech, voice or language.] speech-

1 language pathology and is an independent practitioner providing  
2 services in hospitals, clinics, public school entities,  
3 nonpublic schools, private practices and other settings in which  
4 speech language pathology services are relevant. A person is  
5 deemed to be or to hold himself out as being a speech-language  
6 pathologist if he offers [such] services and functions defined  
7 under this act as the practice of speech-language pathology or  
8 offers to treat any disorders that may be treated by a licensed  
9 speech-language pathologist under any title incorporating the  
10 [words speech-language pathologist, speech consultant] terms  
11 speech-language pathology, speech-language pathologist, speech  
12 therapist, [speech correctionist, speech clinician, speech  
13 specialist, language pathologist, logopedist, communication  
14 therapist, voice therapist, aphasia therapist, aphasiologist,  
15 communicologist, or any similar title or description of service]  
16 voice therapist, aphasiologist, orofacial myologist, dysphagia  
17 therapist or any variation, synonym, coinage or similar title  
18 that expresses, employs or implies these terms, names or  
19 functions.

20 \* \* \*

21 Section 3. Section 5 of the act, amended October 18, 2000  
22 (P.L.536, No.71), is amended to read:

23 Section 5. Powers and duties of board.

24 The board shall have the power and its duties shall be:

25 (1) To approve the qualifications and fitness of  
26 applicants for licensure, and to adopt and revise rules and  
27 regulations requiring applicants to pass examinations  
28 relating to their qualifications as a prerequisite to the  
29 issuance of a license.

30 (2) To adopt and revise rules and regulations consistent

1 with the law as may be necessary to implement the provisions  
2 of this act. These rules and regulations shall include, but  
3 not be limited to, codes of ethics for speech-language  
4 pathologists, school-based speech-language pathologists,  
5 audiologists and teachers of the hearing impaired. The codes  
6 of ethics shall provide further that, whereas speech-language  
7 pathologists, school-based speech-language pathologists,  
8 audiologists and teachers of the hearing impaired provide  
9 nonmedical and nonsurgical services, medical diagnosis and  
10 medical treatment by these persons are specifically to be  
11 considered unethical [and illegal] and outside the scope of  
12 practice as defined by this act.

13 (3) To examine for, deny, approve, issue, revoke,  
14 suspend or renew the licenses of speech-language  
15 [pathologist, audiologist and teacher of the hearing impaired  
16 applicants] pathologists, school-based speech-language  
17 pathologists, audiologists and teachers of the hearing  
18 impaired.

19 (4) To conduct hearings upon complaints of violations of  
20 this act and the rules and regulations adopted pursuant to  
21 this act, and to prosecute and enjoin all such violations.

22 (5) To spend funds necessary for the proper performance  
23 of its assigned duties in accordance with the fiscal and  
24 other laws of this Commonwealth and upon approval by the  
25 Commissioner of Professional and Occupational Affairs.

26 (6) To waive examination and educational requirements  
27 and grant a license as provided in sections 6 and 7.

28 (7) To establish standards of eligibility for license  
29 renewal. These standards shall include, but not be limited  
30 to, the demonstration of satisfactory completion of 20 clock



1 hours of continuing education related to the practice of  
2 speech-language pathology, school-based speech-language  
3 pathology, audiology or teaching the hearing impaired in  
4 accordance with board regulations. No credit may be given for  
5 courses in office management or practice building. The board  
6 may waive all or part of the continuing education requirement  
7 to a licensee who shows to the satisfaction of the board that  
8 the licensee was unable to complete the requirement due to  
9 illness, emergency or hardship. The request for a waiver must  
10 be made in writing, with appropriate documentation, and must  
11 include a description of the circumstances sufficient to show  
12 why a licensee is unable to comply with the continuing  
13 education requirement. Waiver requests shall be evaluated by  
14 the board on a case-by-case basis. The board shall send the  
15 licensee written notification of its approval or denial of a  
16 waiver request. The requirement to demonstrate the  
17 satisfactory completion of continuing education shall begin  
18 with the biennial renewal period to be designated by  
19 regulation of the board and following written notice to  
20 licensees.

21 (8) To promulgate rules and regulations regarding  
22 persons functioning under the direction of audiologists,  
23 speech-language pathologists and teachers of the hearing  
24 impaired.

25 (9) To recognize national professional organizations in  
26 speech-language pathology that have established definitions  
27 of the practice of speech-language pathology. These  
28 organizations shall be the same as those recognized by the  
29 board under the provisions of section 7(b)(2). The board  
30 shall have the power to review and adopt those definitions to

1 be the practical definitions of the practice of speech-  
2 language pathology and school-based speech-language pathology  
3 for licensees under the board. If one or more of the  
4 recognized national professional organizations amends its  
5 definitions, the amended definitions cannot be added to the  
6 practice of speech-language pathology or school-based speech-  
7 language pathology until they have been reviewed and adopted  
8 by the board through regulation.

9 (10) To recognize national accrediting agencies which  
10 accredit programs of speech-language pathology as specified  
11 in section 7(a)(1).

12 Section 4. Sections 6, 7, 10 and 12 of the act are amended  
13 to read:

14 Section 6. License required; persons and practices not  
15 affected; exclusions.

16 (a) Licenses.--Except as provided in [subsection (b)]  
17 subsections (b) and (c), no person may practice or hold himself  
18 out as being able to practice as an audiologist, speech-language  
19 pathologist, school-based speech language pathologist or teacher  
20 of the hearing impaired in this Commonwealth unless he holds a  
21 current, unsuspended, unrevoked license issued by the board.  
22 Licensure shall be granted separately in speech-language  
23 pathology, audiology and teaching of the hearing impaired.  
24 Terminology that approximates audiology, speech-language  
25 pathology, school-based speech-language pathology or teaching of  
26 the hearing impaired without a current, unsuspended, unrevoked  
27 license issued by the board that may confuse the public or  
28 falsify the credentials of the individual or company shall  
29 constitute a violation of this act.

30 (b) Exclusions.--Nothing in this act shall be construed as

1 preventing or restricting:

2 (1) Any person licensed or registered in this  
3 Commonwealth from engaging in the profession or occupation  
4 for which he is licensed or registered, including:

5 (i) A physician or surgeon engaged in the practice  
6 of medicine.

7 (ii) A licensed physician or surgeon or a trained  
8 individual under the direction of a licensed physician  
9 doing hearing testing in the office or clinic of the  
10 physician.

11 (iii) A hearing aid fitter engaged in the business  
12 of selling and fitting hearing aids, and a hearing aid  
13 dealer engaged in the sale of hearing aids, as provided  
14 in the act of November 24, 1976 (P.L.1182, No.262), known  
15 as the Hearing Aid Sales Registration Law.

16 (2) A person who holds a valid credential issued by the  
17 Department of Education in the area of speech or hearing and  
18 who is employed in public or private elementary and secondary  
19 schools or institutions chartered by the Commonwealth, or a  
20 person who is employed by the Commonwealth or the Federal  
21 Government as a speech-language pathologist, audiologist or  
22 teacher of the hearing impaired from engaging in his  
23 profession or occupation, if the person performs his services  
24 solely within the scope of his employment, or a person  
25 performing hearing testing under section 1402 of the act of  
26 March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School  
27 Code of 1949.

28 (3) The activities of a student or trainee who is  
29 pursuing a program of study supervised by a person licensed  
30 under this act or otherwise exempt by this section which lead

1 to a degree in audiology, teaching the hearing impaired or  
2 speech-language pathology at an accredited college or  
3 university, if such individual is designated by a title  
4 clearly indicating his student or training status.

5 (4) The practice of speech-language pathology, audiology  
6 or teaching the hearing impaired in this Commonwealth by any  
7 person not a resident of this Commonwealth who is not  
8 licensed under this act if the person meets the  
9 qualifications and requirements for licensure described in  
10 section 7, or who is licensed under the law of another state  
11 having licensure requirements determined by the board to be  
12 at least equivalent to those established by section 7, and if  
13 the services are performed for no more than five days in any  
14 calendar year in cooperation with a speech-language  
15 pathologist, audiologist or teacher of the hearing impaired  
16 licensed under this act.

17 (5) A corporation, partnership, trust, association,  
18 company or other similar form of organization from engaging  
19 in the practice of speech-language pathology, audiology or  
20 teaching the hearing impaired without a license if it employs  
21 licensed individuals in the direct practice of speech-  
22 language pathology, audiology or teaching the hearing  
23 impaired.

24 (c) School speech pathology.--No person may provide speech  
25 pathology services in a public school unless the person has  
26 obtained and maintains at least one of the following:

27 (1) A license from the board to practice as a speech-  
28 language pathologist.

29 (2) A license from the board to practice as a school-  
30 based speech-language pathologist.

1           (3) A certificate or emergency permit from the  
2           Department of Education to work as a speech pathologist in  
3           the public schools, provided that the certificate or  
4           emergency permit was obtained prior to the effective date of  
5           this subsection and is continuously maintained after that  
6           date.

7           (d) Persons with certificates or emergency permits.--Any  
8           person qualified to work as a speech pathologist in the public  
9           schools under subsection (c)(3) may continue to perform such  
10           work without restriction and may move from one school district  
11           to another without obtaining a license or provisional license  
12           from the board so long as the person maintains a certificate or  
13           emergency permit from the Department of Education.

14 Section 7. Requirements for licensure.

15           (a) In general.--Except as provided in subsections (b) and  
16 (c), to be eligible for licensure by the board as a speech-  
17 language pathologist, school-based speech-language pathologist,  
18 audiologist or teacher of the hearing impaired, an applicant  
19 shall pay a fee as established by the board in accordance with  
20 section 8(a), be of good moral character to the satisfaction of  
21 the board, pass an examination appropriate for the licensure  
22 desired and:

23           (1) For the license in speech-language pathology,  
24           possess a master's degree in speech-language pathology [or  
25           its equivalent] from an [accredited academic institution]  
26           academic program accredited by an accrediting agency approved  
27           by the board under standards pursuant to this act. In  
28           addition, the applicant must have at least [one year] nine  
29           months of supervised professional experience in the field of  
30           speech-language pathology[.], including a number of hours in

1 compliance with standards established by the board.

2 (1.1) For the license in school-based speech-language  
3 pathology, possess a master of education degree with focused  
4 training in school-based speech-language pathology from an  
5 accredited academic institution or a master of science degree  
6 with focused training in school-based speech-language  
7 pathology from an accredited academic institution. In  
8 addition, the applicant must possess a certificate issued by  
9 the Department of Education to work as a speech-language  
10 pathologist in a public school entity.

11 (2) For the license in audiology, possess a master's  
12 degree in audiology or its equivalent from an accredited  
13 academic institution. In addition, the applicant must have at  
14 least one year of supervised professional experience in the  
15 field of audiology.

16 (3) For licensure as a teacher of the hearing impaired,  
17 possess a master's degree in education of the hearing  
18 impaired or its equivalent from an accredited academic  
19 institution. In addition, the applicant must have at least  
20 one year of supervised professional experience in the field  
21 of teaching the hearing impaired.

22 (b) Waivers.--The board may waive the examination and  
23 educational requirements for any of the following:

24 (1) Applicants who present proof of [current  
25 certification or licensure] a currently valid license to  
26 practice speech-language pathology in a state which has  
27 standards determined by the board to be at least equal to  
28 those for licensure in this Commonwealth.

29 (2) Applicants who hold a currently valid and  
30 appropriate Certificate of Clinical Competence from the

1 Council of Professional Standards of the American Speech-  
2 Language and Hearing Association.

3 (3) Applicants who hold a currently valid professional  
4 certificate issued by the Council on Education of the Deaf in  
5 compliance with its standards for the certification of  
6 teachers of the hearing impaired and who have completed an  
7 additional ten graduate academic credits established by the  
8 board to be appropriate for licensure as a teacher of the  
9 hearing impaired.

10 (4) Applicants who present proof of a current public  
11 school certification and a master's degree in speech-language  
12 pathology.

13 (c) Requirements for current practitioners.--The board shall  
14 waive the examination and educational requirements for any  
15 applicant who, on the effective date of this act:

16 (1) has at least a bachelor's degree with a major in  
17 speech-language pathology, audiology or teaching the hearing  
18 impaired from an accredited college or university, and who  
19 has been employed as a speech-language pathologist,  
20 audiologist or teacher of the hearing impaired for at least  
21 nine consecutive months within three years prior to the  
22 effective date of this act; and

23 (2) files an application with the board providing bona  
24 fide proof of the degree and employment together with the  
25 application fee prescribed in section 8.

26 (d) Provisional licenses.--

27 (1) The board may, in accordance with the provisions of  
28 this section, issue a provisional license in speech-language  
29 pathology to applicants who have met all of the requirements  
30 for licensure under this act except for the completion of the

1 clinical fellowship necessary to receive certification from a  
2 national credentialing organization as recognized by the  
3 board pursuant to subsection (b) (2). In order to receive the  
4 license, the applicant must submit an application for the  
5 provisional license to the board on a form prescribed by the  
6 board. The form must indicate the applicant's plans for  
7 completing the clinical fellowship and must be accompanied by  
8 an application fee determined by the board. A provisional  
9 license issued under this section shall be valid for a  
10 maximum of 18 months and may be renewed one time. The purpose  
11 of the provisional license is solely to allow individuals to  
12 practice speech-language pathology under appropriate  
13 supervision while completing the postgraduate professional  
14 experience required for certification under subsection (b)  
15 (2). A person holding a provisional license is authorized to  
16 practice speech-language pathology only while working under  
17 the supervision of a person fully licensed in this  
18 Commonwealth in accordance with this act. A person must  
19 obtain a provisional license from the board prior to  
20 beginning a clinical fellowship.

21 (2) Any person who is qualified by education, training  
22 and clinical experience by completing all educational  
23 requirements and has submitted a completed application for  
24 full licensure to the board may hold a provisional license  
25 provided that the provisional license shall only be valid for  
26 six months from the time of application for the permanent  
27 license.

28 (3) A person holding a valid license in another state to  
29 practice speech-language pathology and who has applied for a  
30 license in this Commonwealth under the provisions of this act



1 may practice speech-language pathology while working under  
2 the supervision of a person fully licensed in this  
3 Commonwealth for no more than 90 days while awaiting approval  
4 of the license application.

5 Section 10. Refusal to issue; revocation; etc.

6 The board may refuse to issue and may suspend or revoke a  
7 license of any person or applicant by a vote of at least a  
8 majority of the members of the board for any of the following  
9 reasons:

10 (1) The practice of any fraud, misrepresentation or  
11 concealment in obtaining or attempting to obtain a license or  
12 renewal thereof.

13 (2) A violation of this act or noncompliance with the  
14 rules and regulations promulgated by the board under this  
15 act.

16 (3) Aiding or abetting any person in the violation of  
17 this act or noncompliance with the rules and regulations  
18 promulgated by the board.

19 (4) Being convicted of a felony or misdemeanor of the  
20 first or second degree in any court of the United States or  
21 of any state within ten years prior to the date of  
22 application for licensure.

23 (5) Unprofessional conduct as defined by the rules and  
24 regulations adopted by the board.

25 (6) The practice of fraud or deceit in connection with  
26 services rendered as an audiologist, speech-language  
27 pathologist or teacher of the hearing impaired.

28 (7) The speech-language pathologist or school-based  
29 speech-language pathologist is unable to practice his  
30 profession with reasonable skill and safety because of

1 illness, drunkenness, excessive use of controlled substances,  
2 chemicals or other types of materials or as the result of a  
3 mental or physical condition. In enforcing this paragraph,  
4 the board shall, upon probable cause, have the authority to  
5 compel a licensee to submit to a mental or physical  
6 examination as designated by the board. After notice,  
7 hearing, adjudication and appeal as provided for in section  
8 11, failure of a licensee to submit to such examination when  
9 directed shall constitute an admission of the allegations  
10 against the licensee unless failure is due to circumstances  
11 beyond the licensee's control, consequent upon which a  
12 default and final order may be entered without the taking of  
13 testimony or presentation of evidence. A licensee affected  
14 under this paragraph shall at reasonable intervals be  
15 afforded an opportunity to demonstrate that the licensee can  
16 resume a competent practice of speech-language pathology or  
17 school-based speech-language pathology with reasonable skill  
18 and safety to patients.

19 Section 12. Requirement of a medical examination.

20 (a) Medical examination.--Before an audiologist initiates  
21 aural rehabilitation for an individual, there shall be a medical  
22 examination verifying that there are no diseases of the ear  
23 requiring medical or surgical treatment.

24 (b) Waiver.--[This section] Subsection (a) does not apply if  
25 an individual signs a written waiver as set forth in this  
26 [section] subsection. The waiver must be read and explained in  
27 such a manner that the individual will be thoroughly aware of  
28 the consequences of signing the waiver. The waiver form shall  
29 read as follows:

30 I have been advised by (audiologist's name) that the

1 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has determined that my best health  
2 interest would be served if I had a medical examination by a  
3 licensed physician before the initiation of aural  
4 rehabilitation. I do not wish a medical examination before the  
5 initiation of aural rehabilitation.

6 \_\_\_\_\_  
7 Signature Date

8 (c) Referrals.--A speech-language pathologist or school-  
9 based speech-language pathologist shall refer patients who  
10 present with suspected medical conditions beyond the scope of  
11 practice under this act to an appropriate physician within 30  
12 days for examination.

13 Section 5. The act is amended by adding a section to read:  
14 Section 16.1. Title.

15 A licensed speech-language pathologist who holds a doctoral  
16 degree in speech-language pathology or a related field may use  
17 the title "Doctor" or "Dr." on written materials only if the  
18 earned doctoral designation abbreviation accompanies the  
19 licensee's name. A licensee who is not also licensed to practice  
20 medicine or osteopathy in this Commonwealth may not attach to  
21 the licensee's name or use as a title the words or abbreviations  
22 "Doctor" or "Dr." in contravention of this section, "M.D.,"  
23 "physician," "surgeon," "D.O." or any word or abbreviation that  
24 suggests that the licensee practices medicine or osteopathy.

25 Section 6. This act shall take effect in 60 days.