

1 AN ACT concerning regulation.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Illinois Speech-Language Pathology and  
5 Audiology Practice Act is amended by changing Sections 3.5,  
6 8.5, and 8.6 as follows:

7 (225 ILCS 110/3.5)

8 (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2028)

9 Sec. 3.5. Exemptions. This Act does not prohibit:

10 (a) The practice of speech-language pathology or  
11 audiology by students in their course of study in programs  
12 approved by the Department, or the performance of  
13 speech-language pathology assistant services by graduates  
14 who have obtained degrees as set forth in paragraph (2) of  
15 Section 8.5 of the Act, when acting under the direction  
16 and supervision of licensed speech-language pathologists  
17 or audiologists.

18 (b) The performance of any speech-language pathology  
19 service by a speech-language pathology assistant or  
20 candidate for licensure as a speech-language pathology  
21 assistant, if such service is performed under the  
22 supervision and full responsibility of a licensed  
23 speech-language pathologist. A speech language pathology

1       assistant or candidate for speech-language pathology  
2       assistant licensure may perform only those duties  
3       authorized by Section 8.7 under the supervision of a  
4       speech-language pathologist as provided in Section 8.8.

5           (b-5) The performance of an audiology service by an  
6       appropriately trained person if that service is performed  
7       under the supervision and full responsibility of a  
8       licensed audiologist.

9           (c) The performance of audiometric testing for the  
10       purpose of industrial hearing conservation by an  
11       audiometric technician certified by the Council of  
12       Accreditation for Occupational Hearing Conservation  
13       (CAOHC).

14          (d) The performance of an audiometric screening by an  
15       audiometric screenings technician certified by the  
16       Department of Public Health.

17          (e) The selling or practice of fitting, dispensing, or  
18       servicing hearing instruments by a hearing instrument  
19       dispenser licensed under the Hearing Instrument Consumer  
20       Protection Act.

21          (f) A person licensed in this State under any other  
22       Act from engaging in the practice for which he or she is  
23       licensed.

24          (g) The performance of vestibular function testing by  
25       an appropriately trained person under the supervision of a  
26       physician licensed to practice medicine in all its

1 branches.

2 (h) The performance of neurophysiologic intraoperative  
3 monitoring of the seventh and eighth cranial nerve by an  
4 individual certified by the American Board of Registration  
5 of Electroencephalographic and Evoked Potential  
6 Technologists as Certified in Neurophysiologic  
7 Intraoperative Monitoring only if authorized and  
8 supervised by the physician performing the surgical  
9 procedure.

10 (Source: P.A. 100-530, eff. 1-1-18.)

11 (225 ILCS 110/8.5)

12 (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2028)

13 Sec. 8.5. Qualifications for licenses as a speech-language  
14 pathology assistant. A person is qualified to be licensed as a  
15 speech-language pathology assistant if that person has applied  
16 in writing or electronically on forms prescribed by the  
17 Department, has paid the required fees, and meets both of the  
18 following criteria:

19 (1) Is of good moral character. In determining moral  
20 character, the Department may take into consideration any  
21 felony conviction or plea of guilty or nolo contendere of  
22 the applicant, but such a conviction or plea shall not  
23 operate automatically as a complete bar to licensure.

24 (2) Has either:

25 (A) received an associate degree from a

1 speech-language pathology assistant program that has  
2 been approved by the Department and that meets the  
3 minimum requirements set forth in Section 8.6; or

4 (B) (i) received a bachelor's degree in  
5 speech-language pathology, communication sciences and  
6 disorders, or other content area from an accredited  
7 college or university that has been approved by the  
8 Department and meets the minimum requirements set  
9 forth in Section 8.6, and (ii) completed the  
10 requirements for certification as a speech-language  
11 pathology assistant or completed an equivalent program  
12 as determined by the Department by rule.

13 ~~(2) Has received either (i) an associate degree from a~~  
14 ~~speech language pathology assistant program that has been~~  
15 ~~approved by the Department and that meets the minimum~~  
16 ~~requirements set forth in Section 8.6, (ii) a bachelor's~~  
17 ~~degree and has completed course work from an accredited~~  
18 ~~college or university that meets the minimum requirements~~  
19 ~~set forth in Section 8.6, or (iii) a bachelor's degree in~~  
20 ~~speech language pathology or communication sciences and~~  
21 ~~disorders from a regionally or nationally accredited~~  
22 ~~institution approved by the Department, and evidence of~~  
23 ~~completion of at least 100 hours of documented field work~~  
24 ~~supervised by a licensed speech language pathologist that~~  
25 ~~is comparable to that completed in a speech language~~  
26 ~~pathology assistant program in this State.~~

1 (Source: P.A. 103-302, eff. 1-1-24.)

2 (225 ILCS 110/8.6)

3 (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2028)

4 Sec. 8.6. Minimum requirements for speech-language  
5 pathology assistant programs.

6 (a) An applicant for licensure as a speech-language  
7 pathology assistant must have earned 60 semester credit hours  
8 in a program of study that includes general education and the  
9 specific knowledge and skills for a speech-language pathology  
10 assistant. The curriculum of a speech-language pathology  
11 assistant program must include all of the following content,  
12 as further provided by rule promulgated by the Department:

13 (1) Twenty-four semester credit hours in general  
14 education.

15 (2) Thirty-six semester credit hours in technical  
16 content areas designed to provide students with knowledge  
17 and skills required for speech-language pathology  
18 assistants, which must include (i) an introductory or  
19 overview course in ~~of normal processes of~~ communication  
20 disorders; (ii) phonetics ~~an overview of communication~~  
21 ~~disorders~~; (iii) speech sound disorders ~~instruction in~~  
22 ~~speech language pathology assistant level service~~  
23 ~~delivery practices~~; (iv) language development ~~instruction~~  
24 ~~in workplace behaviors~~; (v) language disorders ~~cultural~~  
25 ~~and linguistic factors in communication~~; and (vi) anatomy

1       and physiology of speech and hearing mechanisms  
2       ~~observation.~~

3           (3) Completion of at least 100 hours of supervised  
4       field work experiences supervised by a licensed  
5       speech-language pathologist at least 50% of the time when  
6       the student is engaged in contact with the patient or  
7       client. An applicant must obtain written verification  
8       demonstrating successful completion of the required field  
9       work experience, including a description of the setting in  
10      which the training was received and an assessment of the  
11      student's technical proficiency.

12          (b) The Department may promulgate rules that change the  
13      curriculum requirements of subsection (a) in order to reflect  
14      the guidelines for speech-language pathology assistant  
15      programs recommended by the American Speech-Language Hearing  
16      Association.

17          (c) Any applicant for licensure as a speech-language  
18      pathology assistant who applies to the Department prior to the  
19      effective date of this amendatory Act of the 96th General  
20      Assembly or any person who holds a valid license as a  
21      speech-language pathology assistant on the effective date of  
22      this amendatory Act shall not be required to meet the new  
23      minimum requirements for a speech language pathology assistant  
24      program under subsection (a) of this Section 8.6 that are  
25      established by this amendatory Act.

26      (Source: P.A. 96-1315, eff. 7-27-10.)

1           Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect January  
2    1, 2025.