



Sen. Iris Y. Martinez

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1 AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 462

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend Senate Bill 462 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 5. The Hearing Instrument Consumer Protection Act
5 is amended by changing Section 8 as follows:

6 (225 ILCS 50/8) (from Ch. 111, par. 7408)

7 (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2026)

8 Sec. 8. Applicant qualifications; examination.

9 (a) In order to protect persons who are deaf or hard of
10 hearing, the Department shall authorize or shall conduct an
11 appropriate examination, which may be the International
12 Hearing Society's licensure examination, for persons who
13 dispense, test, select, recommend, fit, or service hearing
14 instruments. The frequency of holding these examinations shall
15 be determined by the Department by rule. Those who successfully
16 pass such an examination shall be issued a license as a hearing

1 instrument dispenser, which shall be effective for a 2-year
2 period.

3 (b) Applicants shall be:

4 (1) at least 18 years of age;

5 (2) of good moral character;

6 (3) the holder of an associate's degree or the
7 equivalent;

8 (4) free of contagious or infectious disease; and

9 (5) a citizen or person who has the status as a legal
10 alien.

11 Felony convictions of the applicant and findings against
12 the applicant involving matters set forth in Sections 17 and 18
13 shall be considered in determining moral character, but such a
14 conviction or finding shall not make an applicant ineligible to
15 register for examination.

16 (c) Prior to engaging in the practice of fitting,
17 dispensing, or servicing hearing instruments, an applicant
18 shall demonstrate, by means of written and practical
19 examinations, that such person is qualified to practice the
20 testing, selecting, recommending, fitting, selling, or
21 servicing of hearing instruments as defined in this Act. An
22 applicant must obtain a license within 12 months after passing
23 either the written or practical examination, whichever is
24 passed first, or must take and pass those examinations again in
25 order to be eligible to receive a license.

26 The Department shall, by rule, determine the conditions

1 under which an individual is examined.

2 (d) Proof of having met the minimum requirements of
3 continuing education as determined by the Board shall be
4 required of all license renewals. Pursuant to rule, the
5 continuing education requirements may, upon petition to the
6 Board, be waived in whole or in part if the hearing instrument
7 dispenser can demonstrate that he or she served in the Coast
8 Guard or Armed Forces, had an extreme hardship, or obtained his
9 or her license by examination or endorsement within the
10 preceding renewal period.

11 (e) Persons applying for an initial license must
12 demonstrate having earned, at a minimum, an associate degree or
13 its equivalent from an accredited institution of higher
14 education that is recognized by the U.S. Department of
15 Education or that meets the U.S. Department of Education
16 equivalency as determined through a National Association of
17 Credential Evaluation Services (NACES) member, and meet the
18 other requirements of this Section. In addition, the applicant
19 must demonstrate the successful completion of (1) 12 semester
20 hours or 18 quarter hours of academic undergraduate course work
21 in an accredited institution consisting of 3 semester hours of
22 anatomy and physiology of the speech and hearing mechanism, 3
23 semester hours of hearing science, 3 semester hours of
24 introduction to audiology, and 3 semester hours of aural
25 rehabilitation, or the quarter hour equivalent, or (2) an
26 equivalent program as determined by the Department. Persons

1 licensed before January 1, 2003 who have a valid license on
2 that date may have their license renewed without meeting the
3 requirements of this subsection.

4 (Source: P.A. 98-827, eff. 1-1-15; 99-204, eff. 7-30-15.)".