

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
SPRINGFIELD, 62706

GEORGE H. RYAN  
GOVERNOR

August 17, 2001

To the Honorable Members of the  
Illinois House of Representatives  
91st General Assembly

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Governor by Article IV, Section 9(e) of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, and re-affirmed by the People of the State of Illinois by popular referendum in 1974, and conforming to the standard articulated by the Illinois Supreme Court in People ex Rel. Klinger v. Howlett, 50 Ill. 2d 242 (1972), Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust Co. v. Zagel, 78 Ill. 2d 387 (1979), People ex Rel. City of Canton v. Crouch, 79 Ill. 2d 356 (1980), and County of Kane v. Carlson, 116 Ill. 2d 186 (1987), that gubernatorial action be consistent with the fundamental purposes and the intent of the bill, I hereby return House Bill 1356 entitled "AN ACT concerning speech" with my specific recommendations for change.

House Bill 1356 creates a new category of licensure called Speech-Language Pathology Assistant. In making this change that ultimately should both improve public safety and encourage more people to choose this career path, the bill would unintentionally cause some practical and financial hardships to schools that currently employ people in these positions. By making an immediate shift in the law there is the potential that many fine people could no longer assist students with their speech and communications needs. Rather than have these children go without assistance, or force some people not to continue with their chosen profession, I believe that there should be a separate category of individuals who perform this work. They should not be subject to the full licensure requirements if they are in a category approved by the State Board of Education.

For these reasons, I hereby return House Bill 1356 with the following recommendations for change:

on page 1, line 26, by deleting "Before January 1,"; and

on page 1, by deleting lines 27 through 29; and

on page 2, by deleting lines 1 through 5; and

on page 2, line 6, by deleting "Act."; and

on page 2, line 10, by inserting after the period the following:

"This Section does not apply to speech-language pathology paraprofessionals approved by the State Board of Education."; and

on page 30, line 12, by adding after the word "assistant" the following:

'or a speech-language pathology paraprofessional';  
and

on page 31, in line 18, by deleting "Before"; and

on page 31, by deleting lines 19 through 22; and

On page 32, in line 22, by inserting "(a)" after the period; and

On page 33, by inserting the following after line 2:

(b) Until January 1, 2004, a person holding a bachelor's level degree in communication disorders who was employed to assist a speech-language pathologist on the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 92nd General Assembly shall be eligible to receive a license as a speech-language pathology assistant from the Department upon completion of forms prescribed by the Department and the payment of the required fee."

With these changes, House Bill 1356 will have my approval. I respectfully request your concurrence.

Sincerely,  
s/GEORGE H. RYAN  
Governor