

**Amendment - 1st Reading-white - Requested by: Melissa Nikolakakos - (H) Business and Labor**

- 2025

69th Legislature 2025

Drafter: Laura Sankey Keip,

HB0744.001.001

HOUSE BILL NO. 744

INTRODUCED BY M. NIKOLAKAKOS, E. TILLEMAN, E. BUTTREY, L. JONES, J. KASSMIER, G. LAMMERS,  
J. ETCHART, L. REKSTEN, M. ROMANO, J. LYNCH

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AIDES  
AND AUDIOLOGY AIDES; PROVIDING THAT A SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AIDE OR AUDIOLOGY  
AIDE IS NOT REQUIRED TO BE LICENSED; PROVIDING REQUIREMENTS FOR A SPEECH-LANGUAGE  
PATHOLOGY AIDE OR AUDIOLOGY AIDE; PROVIDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; ~~AND~~ AMENDING  
SECTION 37-15-301, MCA; AND PROVIDING EFFECTIVE DATES AND A CONTINGENT TERMINATION  
DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**Section 1.** Section 37-15-301, MCA, is amended to read:

**"37-15-301. License required -- exception -- rulemaking.** (1) A license must be issued to qualified  
persons either in speech-language pathology or audiology. A person may be licensed in both areas if the  
person meets the respective qualifications, and in those instances, the license fee must be as though for one  
license.

(2) A person may not practice or represent to the public that the person is a speech-language  
pathologist, an audiologist, a speech-language pathology assistant, or an audiology assistant in this state  
unless the person is licensed in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

(3) The board may issue a limited license to qualified individuals engaged in supervised  
professional experience, as defined by board rule.

(4) The board shall establish by rule the qualifications and ~~scope of work permitted activities~~ for  
speech-language pathology aides and audiology aides ~~who are employed by a school district as defined in 20-~~  
~~6-101. The rules may not require the speech-language pathology aide or audiology aide employed by a school~~  
~~district to be licensed by the board. The rules adopted by the board may not be more restrictive than the~~

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requirements in subsection (5).

(5) A speech-language pathology aide or audiology aide employed by a school district:

(a) is not required to be licensed by the board;

(b) shall work under the supervision of a speech-language pathologist or an audiologist a minimum of 20% of the time; and

(c) may not perform work that requires the independent judgment of a speech-language pathologist or audiologist."

**Section 2.** Section 37-15-301, MCA, is amended to read:

**"37-15-301. License required -- exception -- rulemaking.** (1) A license must be issued to qualified persons either in speech-language pathology or audiology. A person may be licensed in both areas if the person meets the respective qualifications, and in those instances, the license fee must be as though for one license.

(2) A person may not practice or represent to the public that the person is a speech-language pathologist, an audiologist, a speech-language pathology assistant, or an audiology assistant in this state unless the person is licensed in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

(3) The board may issue a limited license to qualified individuals engaged in supervised professional experience, as defined by board rule.

(4) The board shall establish by rule the qualifications and permitted activities for speech-language pathology aides and audiology aides who are employed by a school district as defined in 20-6-101. The rules may not require the speech-language pathology aide or audiology aide employed by a school district to be licensed by the board."

**NEW SECTION. Section 3. Effective date -- contingent effective date.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), [this act] is effective on passage and approval.

(2) [Section 2] is effective 30 days after the date of the final adoption of rules to implement the provisions of [section 1(4) and (5)] by the board of speech-language pathologists and audiologists.

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6 - END -

*Authorized Print Version – HB 744*