



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; 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 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 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."

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.

Section 4. Contingent termination. [Section 1] terminates 30 days after the date of the final adoption of rules to implement the provisions of [sections 1(4) and (5)] by the board of speech-language

pathologists and audiologists. The department of labor and industry shall submit certification to the code commissioner within 14 days of the occurrence of the contingency.

- END -

I hereby certify that the within bill,
HB 744, originated in the House.

Chief Clerk of the House

Speaker of the House

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2025.

President of the Senate

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2025.

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

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