

**Sixty-third Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 8, 2013**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1092
(Human Services Committee)

(At the request of the Board of Examiners on Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology)

AN ACT to create and enact a new section to chapter 43-37 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to licensing out-of-state audiologists and speech-language pathologists; to amend and reenact section 43-37-04 and subsection 2 of section 43-37-05 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the licensing of audiologists and the composition of the board of examiners on audiology and speech-language pathology; and to provide an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 43-37-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

43-37-04. Eligibility for licensure.

To be eligible for licensure by the board as an audiologist or speech-language pathologist, an applicant shall meet all the following requirements:

1. Be of good moral character.
2. Possess an appropriate degree from an educational institution recognized by the board.
 - a. An applicant for a speech-language pathologist license shall possess at least a master's degree in speech-language pathology.
 - b. An applicant for an audiologist license shall possess at least a master's or a doctorate degree in audiology.
3. Submit evidence showing qualifications prescribed by rules of the board.
4. Pass an examination approved by the board within one year of application. ~~The board may waive the examination requirement if the applicant presents proof of licensure in another state which has professional standards equivalent to those required by the board.~~
5. Pay the prescribed fee.

SECTION 2. A new section to chapter 43-37 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Licensing of out-of-state practitioners.

1. The board may adopt rules establishing licensure requirements for applicants who hold a current license in good standing to practice as an audiologist or speech-language pathologist in a state or jurisdiction other than this state and who are not the subject of a pending disciplinary action in any state or jurisdiction.
2. Notwithstanding section 43-37-04, as it relates to the licensure eligibility of an out-of-state audiologist or speech-language pathologist, the board's rules may allow for:
 - a. Waiver of the examination requirement if the applicant meets the requirements established by the board.
 - b. Consideration of education and experience in order to meet the education requirements.

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT. Subsection 2 of section 43-37-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

2. The board must be composed of eight members appointed by the governor. Appointees must be residents of this state for at least one year immediately preceding their appointment and, except for the consumer member, must be engaged in rendering services to the public, in teaching, or in research in audiology or speech-language pathology for at least three years preceding their appointment. Two board members must be audiologists, ~~three~~four must be speech-language pathologists, one must be an otolaryngologist, ~~one must be a hearing aid specialist,~~ and one must be a consumer.

SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. Section 3 of this Act becomes effective on July 1, 2014.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Sixty-third Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1092.

House Vote: Yeas 57 Nays 29 Absent 8

Senate Vote: Yeas 43 Nays 4 Absent 0

Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2013.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2013.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2013,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State