



SENATE BILL 236: Modernize Audiology Practice Laws.

2023-2024 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Health Care. If favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date:	March 20, 2023
Introduced by:	Sens. Corbin, Krawiec, Adcock	Prepared by:	Jason Moran-Bates Committee Staff
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition S236-CSBC-5		

OVERVIEW: *The PCS to Senate Bill 236 would make changes to the Licensure Act for Speech and Language Pathologists and Audiologists by expanding the definition of "practice of audiology," exempting sellers of over-the-counter hearing aids from licensure, establishing rules for the treatment of minors, and making other technical changes.*

BILL ANALYSIS: The PCS would amend the Licensure Act for Speech and Language Pathologists and Audiologists (Article 22 of Chapter 90) in the following ways:

- The definition for "audiologist" would be clarified by settings the locations in which audiologists practice and the titles they may use.
- The definition of "practice of audiology" would be expanded to include:
 - Performing basic screenings.
 - Eliciting patient histories.
 - Preventing hearing loss through outreach programs and counseling and treating those at risk of hearing loss.
 - Conducting audiological exams, diagnoses, and treatments.
 - Assessing candidate for various types of hearing loss treatments.
 - Selecting, fitting, evaluating, and dispensing hearing aids, cochlear implants, and implantable hearing aids.
 - Counseling those with hearing loss.
 - Conducting otoscope exams and removing earwax.
 - Providing aural rehabilitation.
 - Administering electrophysiological examination of auditory neural function.
 - Referring patients to specialists as needed.
 - Participating as members of a team treating vestibular and balance disorders.
- The selling of over-the-counter hearing aids and the fitting and selling of hearing aids by licensed hearing aid dealers would be exempted from licensure.

Jeffrey Hudson
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578

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- Audiologists would be able to provide nonmedical audiologic services to minors and develop Individualized Educational Programs and Individual Family Service Plans. Audiologists who were supervised by a physician would be able to assess minors for hearing impairment treatment.
- The clinical experience needed for licensure would not be required to be broken down into specific treatment areas. The amount of overall clinical experience would remain the same.
- The fee for an audiology assistant would have to be submitted to the Board prior to the assistant being registered.
- It would be clarified that the Board has the power to deny license or registration applications.
- Various technical and conforming changes would be made.
- The Board would have the power to adopt temporary rules to implement the new provisions of Article 22.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The provision granting the Board the power to adopt temporary rules would be effective when the bill becomes law. The remainder of the bill would be effective October 1, 2023.