

**Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.**

1 State of Arkansas  
2 83rd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2001  
4

*As Engrossed: S1/30/01 H2/8/01*

## A Bill

**Act 290 of 2001**  
SENATE BILL 266

5 By: Senators Critcher, Fitch, Gullett, Horn, P. Malone, B. Walker  
6 By: *Representatives Womack, Biggs*  
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### For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE 17-84-304 PERTAINING TO  
11 INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS FOR HEARING INSTRUMENT DISPENSERS;  
12 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
13

#### Subtitle

14 TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE 17-84-304  
15 PERTAINING TO INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS FOR  
16 HEARING INSTRUMENT DISPENSERS.  
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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code 17-84-304 is amended to read as follows:

23 17-84-304. Internship and applications - Qualifications of applicants.

24 (a)(1) Prior to applying for ~~licensure~~ a license, each applicant other  
25 than those meeting the requirements of ~~§ 17-87-304(b)(2) or (b)(3)~~ § 17-84-  
26 304(e)(2), (3), (4), or (5) must complete a one-year employment internship  
27 during which he or she is under the direct personal and physical supervision  
28 of a sponsor who has continuously held in good standing for a period of not  
29 less than three (3) years either a valid Arkansas hearing instrument  
30 dispenser's license or a valid Arkansas audiology license.

31 (2) An internship will be valid only if prior to beginning the  
32 internship period the applicant:

33 (A) Makes application for internship approval on forms  
34 supplied by the Arkansas Board of Hearing Instrument Dispensers;

35 (B) Pays the internship fees prescribed by the board  
36 pursuant to this chapter; and

1 (C) Shows to the satisfaction of the board that during the  
2 period of the internship he or she will be under the direct personal and  
3 physical supervision of a sponsor who has continuously held a valid Arkansas  
4 hearing instrument dispenser's or Arkansas audiologist's license for a period  
5 of not less than three (3) years.

6 (3) A person participating in a valid internship program may take  
7 the licensing examination administered by the board upon written  
8 recommendation of his or her sponsor after successfully completing six (6)  
9 months in the internship program. If such person satisfactorily passes the  
10 examination, he or she may complete the one-year internship program under the  
11 oversight of the sponsor without personal and physical supervision.

12 (b) It shall be a violation of this chapter for any person during the  
13 course of his or her internship to practice the dispensing of hearing  
14 instruments except under the direct personal and physical supervision of a  
15 person who has continuously held a valid Arkansas hearing instrument  
16 dispenser's or Arkansas audiologist's license for a period of not less than  
17 three (3) years.

18 (c) It shall be a violation of this chapter for any sponsor of an  
19 intern to knowingly allow or require that intern to practice the dispensing of  
20 hearing instruments except under the sponsor's direct personal and physical  
21 supervision.

22 (d) An applicant for a license under this chapter shall:

23 (1) Submit a written application and request for examination in  
24 the form and within the time prescribed by the board;

25 (2) Pay an application and examination fee as prescribed by the  
26 board, pursuant to this chapter; and

27 (3) Show to the satisfaction of the board that the applicant:

28 (A) Is ~~twenty one (21)~~ twenty (20) years of age or older;

29 (B) Has an education equivalent to two (2) years of  
30 accredited college-level course work from a regionally accredited college or  
31 university;

32 (C) Is of good moral character; and

33 (D) Has satisfactorily passed the examination in the form  
34 and within the time prescribed by the board.

35 (e) Prior to applying for a license under this chapter, an applicant  
36 must:

1 (1) Complete a one-year internship as provided for in this  
2 section;

3 (2) Hold National Board of Certified Hearing Instrument Sciences  
4 Certification;

5 (3) Be registered as a hearing instrument dispenser in good  
6 standing in another state whose licensing requirements meet or exceed the  
7 licensing requirements of the State of Arkansas at the time of his or her  
8 application; ~~or~~

9 (4) Be a graduate of an American Conference of Audioprosthology  
10 program; or

11 (5) Hold an Associate of Applied Science degree in Hearing  
12 Healthcare Practitioner or a similar degree from a regionally accredited  
13 college or university.

14 /s/ Critcher, et al.

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17 APPROVED: 2/19/2001  
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