

ARKANSAS SENATE

94th General Assembly - Regular Session, 2023

Amendment Form

Subtitle of Senate Bill No. 91

TO ESTABLISH THE AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY INTERSTATE COMPACT IN
ARKANSAS.

Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 91

Amend Senate Bill No. 91 as originally introduced:

Page 23, delete line 12, and substitute the following:

"effective in this state.

(d) For the purposes of the member state's ability to reject a rule under Section 10(B) of the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact, Arkansas delegates its authority in this provision to the General Assembly or the Legislative Council.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 17-100-302(b), concerning the eligibility criteria for licensure as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist, is amended to read as follows:

(b) To be eligible for licensure by the board as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist, a person shall:

(1) Possess at least a master's degree in the area of speech-language pathology or a master's degree in audiology obtained on or before December 30, 2006, or a doctoral degree obtained after January 1, 2007, from an educational institution recognized by the board;

(2) Submit evidence of the completion of the educational, clinical experience, and employment requirements, which shall be based on appropriate national standards and prescribed by the rules adopted under this chapter; ~~and~~

(3) Apply for a criminal background check and meet the qualifications for issuance of a license under § 17-100-309 if he or she affirmatively indicates that he or she intends to participate in the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact; and

(4) Pass an examination approved by the board before the board approves a license.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 17-100-305, concerning annual renewals for speech-language pathologists and audiologists, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:



(f) If a person affirmatively indicates on his or her renewal that he or she intends to participate in the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact, then he or she shall apply for a criminal background check and meet the qualifications for issuance of a license under § 17-100-309.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code Title 17, Chapter 100, Subchapter 3, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

17-100-309. Criminal background checks.

(a) Each applicant or licensee for a license issued by the Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology under the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact is required to apply for a state and national criminal background check, to be conducted by the Identification Bureau of the Division of Arkansas State Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(b) The criminal background check shall conform to the applicable federal standards and shall include the taking of fingerprints.

(c) The applicant or licensee shall sign a release of information to the board and shall be responsible for the payment of any fee associated with the criminal background check.

(d) Upon completion of the criminal background check, the Identification Bureau of the Division of Arkansas State Police shall forward to the board all releasable information obtained concerning the applicant or licensee.

(e) For purposes of this section, the board shall follow the licensing restrictions based on criminal records under § 17-3-102.

(f)(1) Information received by the board from the Identification Bureau of the Division of Arkansas State Police under this section shall not be available for examination except by the affected applicant or licensee for licensure or his or her authorized representative or the person whose license is subject to revocation or his or her authorized representative.

(2) A record, file, or document shall not be removed from the custody of the division.

(g) Information made available to the affected applicant or licensee for licensure or the person whose license is subject to revocation shall be information pertaining to that person only.

(h) Rights of privilege and confidentiality established in this section do not extend to any document created for purposes other than the criminal background check under the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact.

(i) The board shall adopt the necessary rules to fully implement the provisions of this section."

The Amendment was read the first time, rules suspended and read the second time and _____

By: Senator K. Hammer
JMB/JMB - 02-28-2023 16:44:10
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Secretary