

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY & AUDIOLOGY

Enabling Laws

Act 1831 of 2005
A.C.A. §17-100-101 et seq.

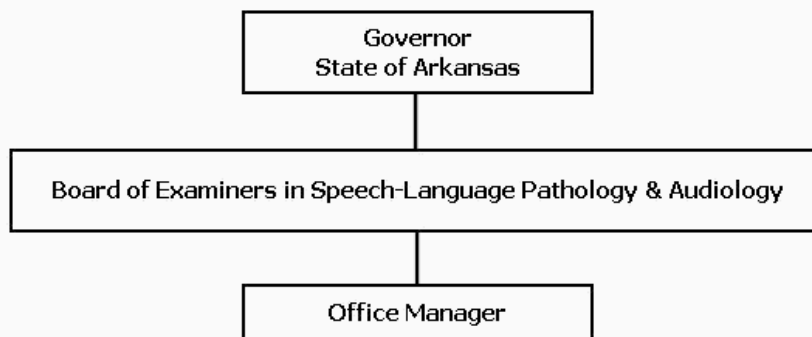
History and Organization

The Arkansas Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (ABESPA) was formed in 1975 through enabling legislation, Act 277. Act 121 revised parts of the original legislation in 1993 and in 1995 Act 826 was passed allowing use of speech-language pathology assistants. Rules and Regulations were last revised effective June 12, 2005.

The Board is composed of eight (8) members. These include five (5) professionals in Speech Pathology and Audiology (at least 2 from each field), a consumer representative, a public representative, and a senior citizen. The members are appointed by the Governor for three (3) year terms. A member may serve two (2) full consecutive terms.

The mission of this Board is to help assure the availability of the highest possible quality speech-language pathology and audiology services to the communicatively handicapped people of this State by strict licensing requirements and mandatory continuing professional education and to protect the public from being misled by incompetent, unscrupulous, and unauthorized persons and from unprofessional conduct on the part of qualified speech-language pathologists and audiologists.

ABESPA examines the credentials and qualifications of Speech Pathologists, Speech Pathology Assistants, and Audiologists who wish to provide services to the citizens of Arkansas. A license or registration is issued to those individuals who meet the qualifications. After licensure, each professional is required to meet mandatory continuing education requirements, which are monitored by the Board. ABESPA also acts on behalf of consumers by investigating complaints, conducting hearings, and taking disciplinary action, when warranted, to ensure that quality Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology services are delivered.



Agency Commentary

Granting and maintaining licenses and registrations for Speech-Language Pathologists, Speech Pathology Assistants, and Audiologists is an ongoing function of the Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology according to A.C.A. §17-100-101 et seq. The operations of the Board, which includes one full-time employee and one part time extra help position, are funded from the receipt of fees charged by the Agency.

The Board is requesting Base Level as well as additional operating expenses of \$2,700 in FY08 and \$4,700 in FY09. This additional operating cost will be used for network expenses to allow staff to work off site and to address increased postage and printing expenses of the Board.

Audit Findings

DIVISION OF LEGISLATIVE AUDIT
AUDIT OF :
STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005

Findings	Recommendations
None	None

Employment Summary

	Male	Female	Total	%
White Employees	0	1	1	100 %
Black Employees	0	0	0	0 %
Other Racial Minorities	0	0	0	0 %
Total Minorities			0	0 %
Total Employees			1	100 %

Cash Fund Balance Description as of June 30, 2006

Fund Account	Balance	Type	Location
3290000	\$387,056	Checking, State Treasury	Bank of America, State Treasury

Statutory/Other Restrictions on use:

A.C.A. §17-100-206 - All fees and other funds received by the Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology shall be deposited in a bank account in the name of the board in one or more banks in this state and shall be used by the board exclusively for payment of reasonable and necessary salaries, maintenance, and operating expenses

Statutory Provisions for Fees, Fines, Penalties:

A.C.A. §17-100-206 - The board shall be financed from income accruing to it from fees, licenses, and other charges collected by the board, and have the authority to establish and change fees

Revenue Receipts Cycle:

Revenue is collected throughout the year; however, most of the fees are collected during renewal time in the month of June.

Fund Balance Utilization:

Since the largest proportion of fees are collected at the end of the fiscal year, funds are carried over for use in carrying out the business of the office.

Publications

A.C.A 25-1-204

Name	Statutory Authorization	Required for		# Of Copies	Reason (s) for Continued Publication and Distribution
		Governor	General Assembly		
Consumer Information Brochure	ABESPA Rules & Regulations Section 1.8	N	N	250	Provided to all licensees for use in offices and clinics.
Licensure Directory	ABESPA Rules & Regulations Section 1.8	N	N	1,730	Required by rules and regulations for use by licensees and others

Agency Position Usage Report

FY2004-2005						FY2005-2006						FY2006-2007					
Authorized in Act	Budgeted			Unbudgeted	% of Authorized Unused	Authorized in Act	Budgeted			Unbudgeted	% of Authorized Unused	Authorized in Act	Budgeted			Unbudgeted	% of Authorized Unused
	Filled	Unfilled	Total	Total			Filled	Unfilled	Total	Total			Filled	Unfilled	Total	Total	
1	1	0	1	0	0.00%	1	1	0	1	0	0.00%	1	1	0	1	0	0.00%

Analysis of Budget Request

Appropriation: A12 - Cash Operations

Funding Sources: 329-Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology-Cash

The Arkansas Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology was created by A.C.A. §17-100-201 to safeguard the public health, safety, and welfare by providing regulatory authority over persons offering Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology services to the citizens of Arkansas. The Board is a cash agency funded from application, examination and license renewal fees charged pursuant to A.C.A. §17-100-206.

A cost of living increase is not incorporated in Base Level pending the outcome of the Classification and Compensation Study. Personal Services Matching may reflect increases in the Base Level due to certain increases in Worker's Compensation and Unemployment Tax rates. Personal Services Matching also includes a \$30 increase in the monthly contribution for State employee's health insurance for a total State match per budgeted employee of \$350 per month.

The Board employs one full-time person and utilizes the extra help position during licensing and renewal time. Base Level operations total \$117,908 each year of the biennium. The Board is requesting additional operating expenses of \$2,700 in FY08 and \$4,700 in FY09. This increase will be used for increases in postage and printing costs associated with the annual Licensure Directory as well as network expenses to allow staff to work off site.

The Executive Recommendation provides for the reallocation of Professional Fees to Operating Expenses to allow for increases requested by the Board. Expenditure of appropriation is contingent upon available funding.

Appropriation

Appropriation: A12 Cash Operations
Funding Sources: 329-Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology-Cash

Historical Data

Agency Request and Executive Recommendation

Commitment Item		2005-2006	2006-2007	2006-2007	2007-2008			2008-2009		
		Actual	Budget	Authorized	Base Level	Agency	Executive	Base Level	Agency	Executive
Regular Salaries	5010000	43,571	44,640	44,640	44,640	44,640	44,640	44,640	44,640	44,640
#Positions		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Extra Help	5010001	2,720	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
#Extra Help		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Personal Services Matching	5010003	12,827	13,335	12,695	13,702	13,702	13,702	13,702	13,702	13,702
Operating Expenses	5020002	41,404	42,816	42,816	42,816	45,516	45,516	42,816	47,516	47,516
Conference & Travel Expenses	5050009	1,524	3,250	3,250	3,250	3,250	3,250	3,250	3,250	3,250
Professional Fees	5060010	1,645	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	4,800	7,500	7,500	4,800
Data Processing	5090012	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Capital Outlay	5120011	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		103,691	117,541	116,901	117,908	120,608	117,908	117,908	122,608	119,908
Funding Sources										
Fund Balance	4000005	323,286	387,056		454,079	454,079	454,079	527,263	527,263	529,963
Cash Fund	4000045	167,461	184,564		191,092	193,792	193,792	198,782	203,482	203,482
Total Funding		490,747	571,620		645,171	647,871	647,871	726,045	730,745	733,445
Excess Appropriation/(Funding)		(387,056)	(454,079)		(527,263)	(527,263)	(529,963)	(608,137)	(608,137)	(613,537)
Grand Total		103,691	117,541		117,908	120,608	117,908	117,908	122,608	119,908

FY07 Budgeted amount in Personal Services Matching exceeds the Authorized amount due to an increase in the retirement rate from 11.09% to 12.54%.

Change Level by Appropriation

Appropriation: A12-Cash Operations

Funding Sources: 329-Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology-Cash

Agency Request

Change Level		2007-2008	Pos	Cumulative	% of BL	2008-2009	Pos	Cumulative	% of BL
BL	Base Level	117,908	1	117,908	100.0	117,908	1	117,908	100.0
C01	Existing Program	2,700	0	120,608	102.2	4,700	0	122,608	103.9

Executive Recommendation

Change Level		2007-2008	Pos	Cumulative	% of BL	2008-2009	Pos	Cumulative	% of BL
BL	Base Level	117,908	1	117,908	100.0	117,908	1	117,908	100.0
C01	Existing Program	2,700	0	120,608	102.2	4,700	0	122,608	103.9
C19	Executive Changes	(2,700)	0	117,908	100.0	(2,700)	0	119,908	101.7

Justification

C01	Network expenses of \$700 each year to allow staff to work off site. Additional postage as well as printing costs for the annual Licensure Directory.
C19	The Executive Recommendation provides for the reallocation of Professional Fees to Operating Expenses to provide additional amount requested by the Board.