

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 85th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2005
4

As Engrossed: H2/25/05 H3/4/05

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1622

5 By: Representative Pickett
6 By: Senator Broadway
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO ENSURE THE AVAILABILITY AND RETENTION
11 OF CERTIFIED SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS IN
12 ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS BY PROVIDING ADDITIONAL
13 COMPENSATION FOR THOSE SPEECH-LANGUAGE
14 PATHOLOGISTS WHO HOLD A NATIONAL CERTIFICATE OF
15 CLINICAL COMPETENCE IN SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY
16 FROM THE AMERICAN SPEECH-LANGUAGE-HEARING
17 ASSOCIATION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

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20 AN ACT TO ENSURE THE AVAILABILITY AND
21 RETENTION OF CERTIFIED SPEECH-LANGUAGE
22 PATHOLOGISTS.
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25 WHEREAS, certified speech-language pathologists provide important and
26 legally required educational services to the children in Arkansas public
27 schools who need specialized, individualized instruction to ensure that they
28 can succeed in all core subject areas by improving phonemic awareness,
29 vocabulary development, and reading comprehension in both preventative and
30 remedial ways; and
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32 WHEREAS, certified speech-language pathologists provide students with
33 individualized instruction in many areas pertaining to communication such as
34 the areas of articulation, language skills, fluency, and oral motor skills,
35 such as feeding, swallowing, and augmentative communication; and
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1 WHEREAS, a speech-language pathologist who holds a Certificate of
2 Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology from the American Speech-
3 Language-Hearing Association has earned a master's degree, which includes
4 medical-based training, completion of a clinical fellowship year, and has
5 passed the specialty area of the National Teachers Examination; and
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7 WHEREAS, a certified speech-language pathologist has completed training
8 that equals or exceeds that of a National Board for Professional Teaching
9 Standards certified teacher, but a certified speech-language pathologist
10 receives less compensation because of his or her exclusion from the National
11 Board for Professional Teaching Standards incentive program; and
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13 WHEREAS, a speech-language pathologist who holds a Certificate of Clinical
14 Competence in Speech-Language Pathology from the American Speech-Language-
15 Hearing Association may bill Medicaid for services provided to Medicaid-
16 qualified recipients,
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18 NOW THEREFORE,

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-17-413, concerning the National Board of
22 Professional Teaching Standards, is amended to add an additional subsection
23 to read as follows:

24 (d)(1) For the purposes of this subsection (d), "certified speech-
25 language pathologist" means a speech-language pathologist who:

26 (A) Has a master's degree, which includes medical-based
27 training;

28 (B) Has completed a one (1) year clinical fellowship;

29 (C) Has passed the specialty area of the National Teachers
30 Examination; and

31 (A) Holds a Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-
32 Language Pathology from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

33 (2) Beginning with the 2005-2006 school year and each school
34 year thereafter, the Department of Education shall pay a yearly incentive
35 bonus of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to a certified speech-language
36 pathologists who:

1 (A) Holds an Arkansas teaching license in speech-language
2 pathology;

3 (B) Is a full-time employee of an Arkansas education
4 service cooperative or public school district as a speech-language
5 pathologist at the time of receiving the bonus;

6 (C) Is not considered a purchased service contractor, but
7 may be employed under a teacher contract subject to renewal under § 6-17-
8 1506.

9 (3)(A)(i) Bonuses paid to a certified speech-language
10 pathologist under this subsection (d) shall be paid from the funds
11 appropriated and available for bonuses to speech-language pathologist.

12 (ii) If sufficient funds are not available to pay
13 the full amount of the bonus to each certified speech-language pathologist as
14 provided under this section, the Department of Education may reduce the
15 amount of the bonus for each qualified recipient, proportionately as
16 necessary to provide a bonus to each qualified speech-language pathologist in
17 an equal amount.

18 (B) The cost and expenses related to training for or
19 acquisition of the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language
20 Pathology from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association shall not be
21 funded through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards program
22 created under this section and § 6-17-412 and shall be the responsibility of
23 the certified speech-language pathologist.

24 (4) Although a certified speech-language pathologist entitled to
25 a bonus under this subdivision (d) will hold a valid Arkansas teaching
26 license in speech-language pathology, references to "teacher" under this
27 section shall mean a classroom teacher as defined under § 6-17-412(a)(1) who
28 are in the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards program but not
29 certified speech-language pathologists.

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31 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. There is a need to ensure the retention
32 and hiring of highly qualified, certified speech-language pathologists in the
33 public schools. Therefore, it is necessary to implement the provisions of
34 this law effective the beginning of the 2005-2006 school year since some
35 certified speech-language pathologists' contracts begin soon after the
36 beginning of this school year, and without an emergency clause, the law may

1 not go into effect until those contracts are underway. Therefore, an
2 emergency is declared to exist and this act being immediately necessary for
3 the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become
4 effective on July 1, 2005.

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/s/ Pickett