

---

**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2582**

---

**State of Washington                      58th Legislature                      2004 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Health Care (originally sponsored by Representatives Linville, Bailey, Cody and Campbell)

READ FIRST TIME 02/06/04.

1            AN ACT Relating to interim permits for speech-language pathologists  
2 and audiologists; and amending RCW 18.35.010 and 18.35.060.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.35.010 and 2002 c 310 s 1 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6            As used in this chapter, unless the context requires otherwise:

7            (1) "Assistive listening device or system" means an amplification  
8 system that is specifically designed to improve the signal to noise  
9 ratio for the listener, reduce interference from noise in the  
10 background, and enhance hearing levels at a distance by picking up  
11 sound from as close to source as possible and sending it directly to  
12 the ear of the listener, excluding hearing instruments as defined in  
13 this chapter.

14            (2) "Licensed audiologist" means a person who is licensed by the  
15 department to engage in the practice of audiology and meets the  
16 qualifications in this chapter.

17            (3) "Audiology" means the application of principles, methods, and  
18 procedures related to hearing and the disorders of hearing and to  
19 related language and speech disorders, whether of organic or nonorganic

1 origin, peripheral or central, that impede the normal process of human  
2 communication including, but not limited to, disorders of auditory  
3 sensitivity, acuity, function, processing, or vestibular function, the  
4 application of aural habilitation, rehabilitation, and appropriate  
5 devices including fitting and dispensing of hearing instruments, and  
6 cerumen management to treat such disorders.

7 (4) "Board" means the board of hearing and speech.

8 (5) "Department" means the department of health.

9 (~~(6) ("Direct supervision" means that the supervisor is physically  
10 present and in the same room with the interim permit holder, observing  
11 the nondiagnostic testing, fitting, and dispensing activities at all  
12 times.~~

13 (~~(7)~~) "Establishment" means any permanent site housing a person  
14 engaging in the practice of fitting and dispensing of hearing  
15 instruments by a hearing instrument fitter/dispenser or audiologist;  
16 where the client can have personal contact and counsel during the  
17 firm's business hours; where business is conducted; and the address of  
18 which is given to the state for the purpose of bonding.

19 (~~((+8))~~) (7) "Facility" means any permanent site housing a person  
20 engaging in the practice of speech-language pathology and/or audiology,  
21 excluding the sale, lease, or rental of hearing instruments.

22 (~~((+9))~~) (8) "Fitting and dispensing of hearing instruments" means  
23 the sale, lease, or rental or attempted sale, lease, or rental of  
24 hearing instruments together with the selection and modification of  
25 hearing instruments and the administration of nondiagnostic tests as  
26 specified by RCW 18.35.110 and the use of procedures essential to the  
27 performance of these functions; and includes recommending specific  
28 hearing instrument systems, specific hearing instruments, or specific  
29 hearing instrument characteristics, the taking of impressions for ear  
30 molds for these purposes, the use of nondiagnostic procedures and  
31 equipment to verify the appropriateness of the hearing instrument  
32 fitting, and hearing instrument orientation. The fitting and  
33 dispensing of hearing instruments as defined by this chapter may be  
34 equally provided by a licensed hearing instrument fitter/dispenser or  
35 licensed audiologist.

36 (~~((+10))~~) (9) "Good standing" means a licensed hearing instrument  
37 fitter/dispenser, licensed audiologist, or licensed speech-language

1 pathologist whose license has not been subject to sanctions pursuant to  
2 chapter 18.130 RCW or sanctions by other states, territories, or the  
3 District of Columbia in the last two years.

4 ~~((+11+))~~ (10) "Hearing instrument" means any wearable prosthetic  
5 instrument or device designed for or represented as aiding, improving,  
6 compensating for, or correcting defective human hearing and any parts,  
7 attachments, or accessories of such an instrument or device, excluding  
8 batteries and cords, ear molds, and assistive listening devices.

9 ~~((+12+))~~ (11) "Hearing instrument fitter/dispenser" means a person  
10 who is licensed to engage in the practice of fitting and dispensing of  
11 hearing instruments and meets the qualifications of this chapter.

12 ~~((+13+))~~ (12) "Interim permit holder" means a person who holds the  
13 permit created under RCW 18.35.060 and who practices under the  
14 ~~((direct))~~ supervision of a licensed hearing instrument  
15 fitter/dispenser, licensed speech-language pathologist, or licensed  
16 audiologist.

17 ~~((+14+))~~ (13) "Secretary" means the secretary of health.

18 ~~((+15+))~~ (14) "Licensed speech-language pathologist" means a person  
19 who is licensed by the department to engage in the practice of speech-  
20 language pathology and meets the qualifications of this chapter.

21 ~~((+16+))~~ (15) "Speech-language pathology" means the application of  
22 principles, methods, and procedures related to the development and  
23 disorders, whether of organic or nonorganic origin, that impede oral,  
24 pharyngeal, or laryngeal sensorimotor competencies and the normal  
25 process of human communication including, but not limited to, disorders  
26 and related disorders of speech, articulation, fluency, voice, verbal  
27 and written language, auditory comprehension, cognition/communication,  
28 and the application of augmentative communication treatment and devices  
29 for treatment of such disorders.

30 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.35.060 and 2002 c 310 s 6 are each amended to read  
31 as follows:

32 The department, upon approval by the board, shall issue an interim  
33 permit authorizing an applicant for speech-language pathologist  
34 licensure or audiologist licensure who, except for the postgraduate  
35 professional experience and the examination requirements, meets the  
36 academic and practicum requirements of RCW 18.35.040(2) to practice

1 under (~~direct~~) supervision. The interim permit is valid for a period  
2 of one year from date of issuance. The board shall determine  
3 conditions for the interim permit.

--- END ---