

# FINAL BILL REPORT

## SB 6297

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Synopsis as Enacted

**Brief Description:** Regarding certification of speech-language pathology assistants.

**Sponsors:** Senator Franklin.

**Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care**  
**House Committee on Health Care & Wellness**

**Background:** The Legislature passed ESSB 5601 during the 2009 session. This bill established the requirement that only certified speech-language pathology assistants (SLPAs) can use this designation. Minimum qualification include an associate degree or a bachelor degree or certificate of proficiency from a SLPA program approved by the Board of Hearing and Speech (BHS). As an alternative, within one year of this act's effective date, requirements for certification may be met by submitting a competency checklist to BHS and by being employed under the supervision of a speech language pathologist for a minimum of 600 hours within the last three years.

The Secretary of the Department of Health has authority to discipline SLPAs. An SLPA may only perform tasks delegated by a speech language pathologist and must follow the individualized education program and treatment plan.

**Summary:** The Board of Hearing and Speech is given authority to establish standards for certification and discipline of SLPAs.

Applicants for certification as a SLPA can meet the requirements for certification if, within one year of July 1, 2010, the SLPA submits a competency checklist to the Board of Hearing and Speech, and is employed under the supervision of a speech-language pathologist for at least 600 hours within the last three years in compliance with board rules.

**Votes on Final Passage:**

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| Senate | 44 | 0 |
| House  | 96 | 0 |

**Effective:** June 10, 2010  
July 1, 2010 (Section 2)

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

August 1, 2010 (Section 3)