
Health Care Committee

HB 2582

Brief Description: Pertaining to interim permits for speech-language pathologists and audiologists.

Sponsors: Representatives Linville, Bailey, Cody and Campbell.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires that speech language pathologists and audiologists holding an interim permit practice under the supervision of a licensee.

Hearing Date: 2/3/04

Staff: Chris Blake (786-7392).

Background:

The Board of Speech and Hearing licenses speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and hearing instrument fitters/dispensers. It acts as the disciplining authority for unprofessional conduct under the Uniform Disciplinary Act.

Speech-language pathology includes the treatment of speech and language disorders that impede oral competencies and the normal process of communication. Audiology relates to hearing disorders that impede the process of human communication, and includes the application of aural rehabilitation and the fitting and dispensing of hearing instruments.

Interim permits may be issued to speech-language pathologists and audiologists who meet academic and practicum requirements, but need to complete post-graduate professional experience and examination requirements. Interim permit holders must practice under the direct supervision of a licensed hearing instrument fitter/dispenser, licensed speech-language pathologist, or licensed audiologist. Direct supervision requires that the supervisor be physically present in the same room as the interim permit holder.

Summary of Bill:

The direct supervision requirement for speech language pathologists and audiologists who practice pursuant to an interim permit practice is broadened to supervision.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.