**South Carolina General Assembly**

123rd Session, 2019-2020

**A34, R47, S277**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Senator Senn

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Companion/Similar bill(s): 313

Introduced in the Senate on January 8, 2019

Introduced in the House on March 7, 2019

Last Amended on March 5, 2019

Passed by the General Assembly on May 8, 2019

Governor's Action: May 13, 2019, Signed

Summary: Speech-Language Pathologists Assistants exemptions

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

12/12/2018 Senate Prefiled

12/12/2018 Senate Referred to Committee on **Medical Affairs**

1/8/2019 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 164](file:///h:\sj\20190108.docx))

1/8/2019 Senate Referred to Committee on **Medical Affairs** ([Senate Journal‑page 164](file:///h:\sj\20190108.docx))

2/21/2019 Senate Committee report: Favorable **Medical Affairs** ([Senate Journal‑page 7](file:///h:\sj\20190221.docx))

2/22/2019 Scrivener's error corrected

3/5/2019 Senate Amended ([Senate Journal‑page 23](file:///h:\sj\20190305.docx))

3/5/2019 Senate Read second time ([Senate Journal‑page 23](file:///h:\sj\20190305.docx))

3/5/2019 Senate Roll call Ayes‑43 Nays‑0 ([Senate Journal‑page 23](file:///h:\sj\20190305.docx))

3/6/2019 Senate Read third time and sent to House ([Senate Journal‑page 9](file:///h:\sj\20190306.docx))

3/7/2019 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 81](file:///h:\hj\20190307.docx))

3/7/2019 House Referred to Committee on **Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs** ([House Journal‑page 81](file:///h:\hj\20190307.docx))

5/1/2019 House Committee report: Favorable **Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs** ([House Journal‑page 30](file:///h:\hj\20190501.docx))

5/7/2019 House Read second time ([House Journal‑page 20](file:///h:\hj\20190507.docx))

5/7/2019 House Roll call Yeas‑105 Nays‑0 ([House Journal‑page 21](file:///h:\hj\20190507.docx))

5/8/2019 House Read third time and enrolled ([House Journal‑page 45](file:///h:\hj\20190508.docx))

5/9/2019 Ratified R 47

5/13/2019 Signed By Governor

5/17/2019 Effective date 05/13/19

5/21/2019 Act No.  34

View the latest [legislative information](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=277&session=123&summary=B) at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[12/12/2018](file:///p:\pprever\2019-20\277_20181212.docx)

[2/21/2019](file:///p:\pprever\2019-20\277_20190221.docx)

[2/22/2019](file:///p:\pprever\2019-20\277_20190222.docx)

[3/5/2019](file:///p:\pprever\2019-20\277_20190305.docx)

[5/1/2019](file:///p:\pprever\2019-20\277_20190501.docx)

(A34, R47, S277)

**AN ACT** **TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 40‑67‑75 SO AS TO PROVIDE SPEECH‑LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS AND SPEECH‑LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANTS UNDER THEIR SUPERVISION SHALL ADHERE TO CERTAIN GUIDELINES; TO AMEND SECTION 40‑67‑30, RELATING TO THE SUPERVISION OF SPEECH‑LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY INTERNS AND ASSISTANTS, SO AS TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS; TO AMEND SECTION 40‑67‑260, RELATING TO THE COMPLETION OF CERTAIN CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS FOR LICENSE RENEWAL, SO AS TO ALLOW FOR THE COMPLETION OF CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS AS AN ALTERNATIVE; TO AMEND SECTION 40‑67‑280, RELATING TO THE COMPLETION OF CERTAIN CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS FOR INACTIVE LICENSE REACTIVATIONS, SO AS TO ALLOW FOR THE COMPLETION OF CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS AS AN ALTERNATIVE; TO AMEND SECTION 40‑67‑300, RELATING TO THE APPLICABILITY OF THE CHAPTER, SO AS TO REVISE CERTAIN EXEMPTIONS; TO REDESIGNATE CHAPTER 67, TITLE 40 AS “SPEECH‑LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS AND AUDIOLOGISTS”; AND TO REPEAL ACT 124 OF 2015 RELATING TO THE TEMPORARY EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN APPLICANTS FOR LICENSURE AS SPEECH‑LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANTS FROM THE REQUIREMENT OF HAVING A BACHELOR’S DEGREE FROM A REGIONALLY ACCREDITED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

**Responsibilities and supervision of speech‑language pathology assistants**

SECTION 1. Chapter 67, Title 40 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 40‑67‑75. A speech‑language pathology assistant may adhere to the responsibilities within the scope for speech‑language pathology assistants set forth by the American Speech‑Language‑Hearing Association. A speech‑language pathologist supervising a speech‑language pathology assistant may adhere to the guidelines for supervision of a speech‑language pathology assistant set forth by the American Speech‑Language‑Hearing Association.”

**Supervision of certain licensees, conforming changes and technical corrections**

SECTION 2. Section 40‑67‑30 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 40‑67‑30. No person may practice speech‑language pathology or audiology without a license issued in accordance with this chapter. A speech‑language pathology intern and a speech‑language pathology assistant only may practice under the direct supervision of a speech‑language pathologist, and an audiology intern only may practice under the direct supervision of an audiologist as specified by the board.”

**License renewals, continuing education**

SECTION 3. Section 40‑67‑260 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 40‑67‑260. (A) As a condition of license renewal, a speech‑language pathologist or audiologist shall satisfactorily complete sixteen hours of approved continuing education or 1.6 continuing education units (CEUs) during each license period.

(B) As a condition of an intern license renewal, a speech‑language pathologist or audiologist shall satisfactorily complete eight hours of approved continuing education or 0.8 CEUs during each license period.

(C) As a condition of an assistant license renewal, a speech‑language pathology assistant shall satisfactorily complete eight hours of approved continuing education or 0.8 CEUs during each license period.

(D) Continuing education must be reported on forms and in the time and manner specified by the board in regulation.

(E) A licensee shall maintain records of continuing education hours or CEUs earned for a period of four years, and these records must be made available to the director or his designee upon request for an audit that the board biennially may conduct.”

**Inactive license reactivations, continuing education**

SECTION 4. Section 40‑67‑280 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 40‑67‑280. To activate an inactive license, an individual shall submit a form approved by the board and evidence attesting to his satisfactory completion of sixteen hours of approved continuing education or 1.6 CEUs for each two years of inactive licensure.”

**Exemptions**

SECTION 5. Section 40‑67‑300 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 40‑67‑300. This chapter does not apply to:

(1) A speech‑language pathologist or audiologist employed by a state or federal agency or a political subdivision of the State before September 1, 2020, while engaged in the discharge of official duties; however, federal and state or political subdivision employees or employees of a political subdivision of the State who are licensed by this board are subject to the provisions of this chapter.

(2) A student of speech‑language pathology or audiology enrolled in a course of study at an accredited institution of higher learning whose activities constitute a part of the course of study.

(3) A hearing aid specialist licensed to fit and sell hearing aids pursuant to Chapter 25; provided, nothing in this chapter is in lieu of, may conflict with, or supersede Chapter 25 and the rights of those licensed under Chapter 25.

(4) A registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or other certified technician trained to perform audiometric screening tests in industrial operations and whose work is under the supervision of a company physician, otological consultant, or licensed audiologist.

(5) A person licensed by the State under this title or any other provision of law whose scope of practice overlaps with the practice of speech‑language pathology or audiology unless the person holds himself out to be a practitioner of speech‑language pathology or audiology.

(6) An educator certified by the State Board of Education, including an educator certified as a speech‑language therapist who is not licensed as a speech‑language pathologist and does not hold a certificate of clinical competence in speech‑language pathology credential from the American Speech‑Language‑Hearing Association.”

**Chapter redesignation**

SECTION 6. Chapter 67, Title 40 is redesignated “Speech‑Language Pathologists and Audiologists”.

**Repeal**

SECTION 7. Act 124 of 2015 is repealed.

**Time effective**

SECTION 8. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

Ratified the 9th day of May, 2019.

Approved the 13th day of May, 2019.

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