



Secretary Carol Aichele

PENNSYLVANIA STATE BOARD OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE AND HEARING



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Proposed Amendment to the Current Requirements to Become Licensed

Nannette Wood, MA, Teacher of the Hearing Impaired, Secretary to the Board

The State Board of Examiners in Speech-Language and Hearing has proposed an amendment to the current requirements to become licensed. This amendment is necessary because when the licensure act was passed in 1984, a waiver was provided that allowed those currently practicing speech, language and hearing to become licensed without meeting the licensure standards that were going into effect, but no ending date for the waiver was ever established. This waiver, also known as a “grandfather clause,” allowed existing practitioners to become licensed if, on the effective date of the act, they held a bachelor’s degree in the appropriate field, had been employed for at least nine consecutive months in the three years immediately preceding the effective date of the act, and filed an application with the Board. The act was effective February 19, 1985, so the Board waived the requirements for licensure for applicants who held an appropriate Bachelor’s degree by February 19, 1985 and were employed as such for at least nine consecutive months between February 19, 1982 and February 19, 1985.

Even though this waiver had no ending date for licensure of existing practitioners under the relaxed standards described above, it seemed obvious that the intention of the licensure law was that existing practitioners should apply within a reasonable amount of time after the law was enacted in 1985. Since 27 years have now passed, the Board has decided to act to eliminate this process by which “existing practitioners” from 1985 could still apply for licensure in 2012 so they can insure that current applicants meet the standards for practice which were established by the law.

The amendment was published as proposed for public comment, though none were received. The Board has determined that it should go forward as planned. The final rulemaking is currently being reviewed at the Governor’s policy office and the Office of General Counsel. Assuming the legislative committees, the Independent Regulatory Review Commission and the Office of Attorney General all approve, it is anticipated that the amendment will be published as final in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* within the next few months.

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State Board of Speech-Language and Hearing

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