

**HB**

**105**

HFIN

FILE

Catherine Reardon  
Division of Occupational Licensing, DCED  
January 31, 2000

## **CSHB 105, Licensing of Speech-Language Pathologists**

If the Legislature passes HB 105 with the proposed amendment to combine the speech-language pathologists and audiologist licensing programs for financial purposes, then the Division of Occupational Licensing anticipates initial license fees of \$315. In addition, there will be an initial application fee of \$150. Fees for future renewals may be significantly higher or lower depending of the actual cost of regulating the professions.

Adopted

1-LS0340\I.1  
Lauterbach  
1/28/00

AMENDMENT |

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

TO: CSHB 105(L&C)

1 Page 1, following line 6:

2 Insert new bill sections to read:

3 **\*\* Sec. 2.** AS 08.01.065(c) is amended to read:

4 (c) Except as provided in (f) and (g) of this section, the department shall  
5 establish fee levels under (a) of this section so that the total amount of fees collected  
6 for an occupation approximately equals the actual regulatory costs for the occupation.  
7 The department shall annually review each fee level to determine whether the  
8 regulatory costs of each occupation are approximately equal to fee collections related  
9 to that occupation. If the review indicates that an occupation's fee collections and  
10 regulatory costs are not approximately equal, the department shall calculate fee  
11 adjustments and adopt regulations under (a) of this section to implement the  
12 adjustments. In January of each year, the department shall report on all fee levels and  
13 revisions for the previous year under this subsection to the office of management and  
14 budget. If a board regulates an occupation covered by this chapter, the department  
15 shall consider the board's recommendations concerning the occupation's fee levels and  
16 regulatory costs before revising fee schedules to comply with this subsection. In this  
17 subsection, "regulatory costs" means costs of the department that are attributable to  
18 regulation of an occupation plus

19 (1) all expenses of the board that regulates the occupation if the board  
20 regulates only one occupation;

21 (2) the expenses of a board that are attributable to the occupation if  
22 the board regulates more than one occupation.

23 **\* Sec. 3.** As 08.01.065 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

24 (g) Notwithstanding (c) of this section, the department shall establish fee  
25 levels under (a) of this section so that the total amount of fees collected by the

1 department for all occupations regulated under AS 08.11 approximately equals the  
2 total regulatory costs of the department for all occupations regulated by the  
3 department under AS 08.11. The department shall set the fee levels for the issuance  
4 and renewal of licenses issued under AS 08.11 so that the fee levels are the same for  
5 all occupations regulated by the department under AS 08.11."

6 Renumber the following bill sections accordingly.

7 Renumber internal references to bill sections in accordance with this amendment. Below are  
8 all internal bill section references in this bill:

9 Page 10, line 10

10 Page 10, line 11

**FISCAL NOTE  
REPORTED OUT OF**

HFC 1/31/00

STATE OF ALASKA  
2000 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CSHB 105(Fin)

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction) \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected Community & Econ. Dev.  
 Title An Act providing for the licensing of speech- BRU Occupational Licensing  
language pathologists; and providing for an effective date. Component Occupational Licensing  
 Sponsor Rep. Bunde  
 Requester House Finance Component Serial No. 2360

**Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)**

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
Personal Services	4.0	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2
Travel	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contractual	3.0	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Supplies	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.7</b>

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )	11.2	0.0	7.4	0.0	7.4	0.0
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**FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)**

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts	7.5	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.7</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY99) cost: 0.0

**POSITIONS**

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)  
 CSHB 105(Fin) creates licensing of speech-language pathologists by the Department of Community and Economic Development. The division of occupational licensing anticipates existing staff will perform the licensing and investigative functions; however, like all licensing programs, time spent on this program will be based on positive timekeeping. The personal services costs reflected in this fiscal note are estimates of time that will be required to implement this new program. All costs will be covered by licensing fees. The estimated costs are explained on the attached page.

Prepared by Jennifer Strickler, Administrative Manager  
 Division Occupational Licensing  
 Approved by Commissioner Deborah B. Sedwick  
 Agency Community & Economic Development

Phone 465-2144  
 Date/Time 2/2/2000 9:50 AM  
 Date 2/2/00

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# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
2000 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CSHB 105(FIN)

ANALYSIS: (Continued)

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FISCAL NOTE CALCULATIONS FOR CSHB 105(FIN)

**PERSONAL SERVICES** **\$4.0**

Provide 1 month of an Occupational Licensing Examiner I position, Range 12, \$4.0.

**CONTRACTUAL SERVICES** **\$3.0**

Funding provides approximately 15 hours of AG legal time for regulations, license appeals, and discipline, \$1.5; and, printing, postage, communications, and advertising costs, \$1.5.

**SUPPLIES** **\$ .5**

To fund daily operating supplies of the program.

**TOTAL:** **\$7.5**

**REVENUE & FUND SOURCE:** Revenue will be generated by licensing fees sufficient to cover program costs. This legislation directs the department to combine the costs and revenue of the audiology and speech pathology programs for fee setting purposes and to charge the same license fees to both professions. Approximately 25 speech pathologists are expected to seek licensure and renew licenses biennially. There are currently 45 licensed audiologists. Licensing fees must cover direct costs plus approximately \$100 per licensee for division/department overhead for the two-year period. Based on 70 licensees and \$150 initial application fee, licensing fees are estimated to be \$315.00 for the first biennium. This figure does not incorporate any existing surplus or deficit from the audiology program. Audiology fees for the September 2000 renewal will be set before this bill goes into effect and will incorporate any audiology surplus or deficit. Fees for future license renewals will be identical for audiologists and speech pathologists and may be significantly higher or lower depending on the actual costs of regulating the professions.

(11)

# HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

Date Referred to Committee: January 26, 2000

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 1/31/00

The FINANCE Committee considered:

HB 105

HOUSE BILL NO. 105

LICENSING SPEECH PATHOLOGY/AUDIOLOGY

"An Act providing for the licensing of speech-language pathologists; and providing for an effective date."

recommends it be replaced with the following committee substitute CS HB 105 (FIN)  the same title  a new title

additional referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

attached amendment(s)

ADOPTS: \_\_\_\_\_ Letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): (Dept) \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date) \_\_\_\_\_

fiscal note(s) DCED

fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

zero fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

zero fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNING WITH RECOMMENDATIONS	DP	DNP	NR	AM
<u>Edon Mulder</u> Mulder			X	
<u>Carole Theriault</u> Theriault			X	
<u>Bob Bunde</u> Bunde				
<u>John Foster</u> Foster			X	
<u>Paul Gusterman</u> Gusterman			X	
<u>Col 91 David Davies</u> Davies			X	
<u>Ben Grossendorf</u> Grossendorf			X	
<u>John Davis</u> Davis			X	
<u>W. Williams</u> Williams			X	

CHAIR'S SIGNATURE

Edon Mulder Carole Theriault

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA  
2000 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

**BILL NO. CSHB 105(Fin)**

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction)	Dept. Affected <u>Community &amp; Econ. Dev.</u>
Title <u>An Act providing for the licensing of speech-</u>	BRU <u>Occupational Licensing</u>
language pathologists; and providing for an effective date.	Component <u>Occupational Licensing</u>
Sponsor <u>Rep. Bunde</u>	
Requester <u>House Finance</u>	Component Serial No. <u>2360</u>

**Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)**

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

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<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>						
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Prepared by <u>Jennifer Strickler, Administrative Manager</u>	Phone <u>465-2144</u>
Division <u>Occupational Licensing</u>	Date/Time <u>2/2/2000 9:50 AM</u>
Approved by Commissioner <u>Deborah B. Sedwick</u>	Date <u>2/2/00</u>
Agency <u>Community &amp; Economic Development</u>	

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# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
2000 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CSHB 105(FIN)

ANALYSIS: (Continued)

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# Alaska State Legislature

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Representative\_Con\_Bunde@legis.state.ak.us

## REPRESENTATIVE CON BUNDE

District 18

VICE-CHAIR: HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE  
MEMBER: LEGISLATIVE BUDGET & AUDIT COMMITTEE

## Sponsor Statement

### HB 105

**"An Act providing for the licensing of speech-language pathologists; and providing for an effective date."**

Alaska is one of only six states that does not require Speech-Language Pathologists (SLP) to have a license. HB 105 sets out requirements for licensure of SLP's that will keep the quality of services provided by these practitioners consistently high.

Currently, the American Speech-Language Hearing Association sets out ethical and clinical competency standards. However, compliance with these standards is voluntary and does not guarantee a high standard of service delivery.

HB 105 will protect consumers from fraudulent practitioners who could emotionally and financially harm a client due to improper service delivery. Additionally, this legislation will help SLP's to obtain reimbursement from insurance companies that refuse to pay practitioners without a license.

The American Speech-Language Hearing Association and the Alaska Speech-Language Hearing Association support this legislation. I urge the committee to help these practitioners keep the standard of care in Alaska consistently high by passing this legislation.

## EMERALD SPEECH & LEARNING CLINIC

615 East 82nd, #204, Anchorage, AK, 99518  
(907) 349-6151, Fax 349-6383

October 30, 1998

The Honorable Con Bunde  
Representative  
716 W. 4th Ave.  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Representative Bunde,

It was a pleasure speaking with you on behalf of the Alaska Speech-Language-Hearing Association (AKSHA) regarding state licensure for speech-language pathologists. AKSHA members fully support licensing in the state of Alaska for one main reason: consumer protection.

State governments are the only agencies capable of passing regulations to protect its citizens. Forty-four states have already passed licensure laws for speech-language pathologists (SLP's). Here, in Alaska, we have already passed licensure laws for audiology, physical therapy and occupational therapy. Occupational licensing for SLP's would demonstrate the continuing commitment our state government has to protecting the consumer public.

Can consumers be injured through improper delivery of speech-language pathology? Absolutely yes! Consumers can be physically harmed during procedures to treat voice disorders and swallowing disorders. They can be injured during the fitting of prosthetic devices and augmentative communication devices.

Consumers can be emotionally harmed when they are misdiagnosed and mistreated by improperly trained SLP's; when they aren't referred to the right treatment sources for further testing and follow-up.

Consumers can be financially harmed when they pay for weeks and months of services from an incompetent provider. In addition, a problem that might have been overcome or eliminated, continues on, delaying or preventing the consumer from returning to their normal life.

Has this happened in Alaska? Yes. We have a man in Homer (see enclosed advertisement) advertising himself to be a SLP. He has a Bachelor of Arts Degree but it isn't even in the field of Communication Disorders. The public has complained about his services, but there is nothing we can do.

How will licensure protect the consumers of Alaska? Licensure is the only available means we have to protect consumers from improper service delivery. For years, SLP's have voluntarily imposed standards for practice of speech-language pathology upon themselves through the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). ASHA has developed very stringent educational and ethical requirements for the legal practice of the profession, culminating in the Certificate of Clinical Competence (C.C.C.). Until recently, Medicare/Medicaid and the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) referenced the C.C.C. as a necessary requirement to provide speech language pathology services in hospitals, etc. A new trend has developed, however, moving away from recognizing private accreditation groups, like

ASHA, to greater reliance upon state determination of qualifications via licensure. As a result, we are left with an even thinner veil of protection for the consumer.

Now that insurance companies and hospitals are relying more on state licensure to determine if a service provider is qualified to practice, we are even more vulnerable. Not only will an unqualified provider be able to practice, but also, qualified providers will be unable to be reimbursed for services. At least one insurance company has denied payment to a SLP in Anchorage because she was not licensed in the state of Alaska. Since licensing is not available, there is no solution to the problem.

AKSHA recognizes that the time has come to enact legislation to license SLP's in private and/or clinical practice in the state of Alaska. We have considered the Eligibility/ Renewal Requirements and would like them to be commensurate with current ASHA requirements for the C.C.C. Therefore, to be eligible for licensure, all speech-language pathologists presently practicing in the state must hold a current Certificate of Clinical Competence. Private practice/clinical SLP's moving to Alaska from other states or countries may use the ASHA C.C.C. or another state or country license with standards equivalent to the C.C.C. as evidence of meeting specific licensure requirements. We do not expect this license to apply to school SLP's certified by the State Department of Education, teachers of the deaf, physicians and their employees, students, nurses, or psychologists.

AKSHA is ready to work with you and the Alaska legislature in drafting and implementing a bill to license speech-language pathologists in our state. Thank you again for your support and willingness to protect the consumers of Alaska.

Sincerely,



Kit Roberts, M.A., C.C.C.  
Speech-Language Pathologist

cc: Diane Poage, AKSHA President



## STATES REGULATING AUDIOLOGY & SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

- \* 46 states regulate 1 or both professions
  - \*\* 46 states regulate AUDs (NH is the most recent--1996)
  - \*\* 44 states regulate SLPs (all but AK and CO)
  - \*\* 2 states regulate only AUDs (AK, CO), and not SLPs
  - \*\* 44 states regulate both AUDs and SLPs
  - \*\* all but 3 states regulate via licensure
    - \*\*\* CO regulates AUDs & MN regulates SLPs & AUDs via registration--a lesser form of regulation than licensure, which is mandatory
    - \*\*\* WA regulates AUDs & SLPs via certification, which is very similar to CO and MN registration. Because it's voluntary, it's a less restrictive form of regulation than licensure
  
- \* 22 states permit licensed or registered AUDs to dispense HAs under AUD regulation (not have to meet additional requirements and/or pay additional fee)
  - \*\* AL, AK, AR, CO, CT, FL, GA, IN, LA, MA, MD, NH, NY\*\*\*\*, OH, OK, RH, SC, TN, TX, UT, WA, WV
    - \*\*\*\* only in not-for-profit settings; AUDs dispensing in for-profit settings must be registered as hearing aid dealers
  
- \* 9 states require all AUDs/SLPs to be licensed, regardless of work setting--includes school-based personnel; MD and NH require all AUDs to be licensed
  - \*\* AZ, CT, DE, HI, IL(?), KS, LA, MA, MD (AUDs), MT, NH (AUDs)
  
- \* 30 AUD/SLP licensure laws recognize support personnel (may not regulate them)
  
- \* 30 states require continuing education for license renewal

SPD/7-96/cel

## EMERALD SPEECH & LEARNING CLINIC

615 East 82nd, #204, Anchorage, AK, 99518  
(907) 349-6151, Fax 349-6383, (800) 474-2116

December 29, 1999

The Honorable Con Bunde  
Representative  
716 W. 4th Ave.  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Representative Bunde,

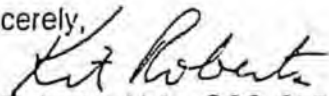
I am writing this letter in support of HB 105, an Act to provide licensing for speech-language pathologists (SLP). Consumer protection is the main reason speech-language pathologists need to be licensed. I have an additional, practical reason to support it: reimbursement.

It seems that over the last several years medical insurance companies have started to rely on state licensure of speech-language pathologists to determine if a service provider is qualified to practice. If the SLP does not have a state license, the insurance company denies payment for the services. This has happened to me. I have had several claim denials from Blue Cross/Blue Shield for this very reason. At this time, I cannot get a license to practice in Alaska. I cannot resolve the situation by obtaining a license. It takes many letters, phone calls, and eventually intervention by the office of the State of Alaska Insurance Commissioner to explain and resolve the situation.

Alaska is one of only four states that does not license speech-language pathologists in private/clinical practice. The trend to allow state governments to license SLP's instead of the federal government is a good one. It is time for Alaska to include SLP's on the list of licensed service providers such as physical therapists, occupational therapists and audiologists. The state needs to support our ability to obtain reimbursement from national insurance companies.

I am ready to work with you and the State of Alaska to support this bill to license speech-language pathologists in our state. Thank you again for your support and willingness to support our profession and protect the consumers of Alaska.

Sincerely,



Kit Roberts, M.A., CCC-SLP  
Speech-Language Pathologist



**Alaska Speech - Language - Hearing Association**

January 10, 2000

Patti Swenson  
Representative Bundy's Office  
Alaska State Capitol, Rm 501  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Ms. Swenson:


I am writing on behalf of the Alaska Speech-Language and Hearing Association in support of HB 105, licensure for speech-language pathologists.

For over a decade, the association has been investigating the need for licensure of speech-language pathologists in private practice. We have made the commitment as an association to support this bill as it works its way through the licensure process. It is the consensus of this association that this bill will help to assure consumers that the speech-language services they are receiving are of the highest standards. We are proud to be joining our fellow physical therapists, occupational therapists and audiologists in having professional licensing in the State of Alaska. As an active member of the national organization of speech-language pathologists we are increasingly aware of our uniqueness in not having standards such as those outlined in the bill. Licensure will allow us to join forty-four other states in regulating the profession of speech-language pathology.

We praise the efforts of your staff in helping this become a reality and on behalf of our Alaskan residents with communication impairments we applaud your energy and appreciate your support of the licensure bill.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Susan Bunting, M.A., CCC-A/SP  
Executive Council Member

**PATRICIA OLMSTEAD, MCSD, CCC**

*Speech-Language Pathologist*

P.O. Box 774462

Eagle River, Alaska 99577

(907) 694-3238

To: Execucive Council  
Alaska Speech-Language-Hearing Association

From: Patty Olmstead  
Eagle River, Alaska

*Patty  
Olmstead*

Date: March 13, 1999

Subject: House Bill 105

Today I received Susan Bunting's "GOOD NEWS" bulletin that House Bill 105 is coming to the legislature. Licensure for speech-language pathologists working outside of the school district certification requirements is long over due. I PRAISE your efforts to have this bill be passed.

As an AkSHA member, I too am pleased that soon we will be joining our fellow physical therapy, occupational and audiology practioners on having professional licensing in the State of Alaska.

I have always been supportive of any assurances to consumers that the speech-language services they are receiving are of the highest standards...no matter where they live in Alaska ...especially rural-remote regions where I continue to practice since 1979.



AMERICAN  
SPEECH-LANGUAGE-  
HEARING  
ASSOCIATION



## Fact Sheet: Speech- Language Pathology



### Nature of the Work

Speech-language pathologists are professionals concerned with evaluation, treatment, prevention and research in human communication and its disorders. They treat speech and language disorders and work with individuals of all ages, from infants to the elderly. They diagnose and evaluate speech problems, such as fluency (e.g., stuttering), articulation, voice disorders, or language problems, such as aphasia and delayed language and related disorders, such as dysphagia (e.g., swallowing difficulties). They design and carry out comprehensive treatment plans to achieve the following:

- Help individuals learn correct production of speech sounds
- Assist with developing proper control of the vocal and respiratory systems or correct voice production
- Assist children and adolescents with language problems, such as understanding and giving directions, answering and asking questions, understanding and using English grammar, using appropriate social language and conveying ideas to others
- Assist individuals who stutter to increase the amount of fluent speech and to cope with their disorder
- Assist individuals who have had strokes or suffered other brain trauma relearn language and speech skills
- Help individuals to use augmentative and assistive systems of communication
- Counsel individuals with speech and language disorders and their families or care givers to understand their disorder and to communicate more effectively in educational, social, and vocational settings
- Advise individuals and the community on how to prevent speech and language disorders

Although speech and language professionals work closely with teachers, physicians, psychologists, social workers, and rehabilitation counselors, and other members of an interdisciplinary team, they are autonomous and do not work under direct medical supervision.

In addition to clinical applications focusing on the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of communication disorders, speech-language pathologists have almost an infinite variety of ways to use their skills: train future professionals in colleges and

universities; administer or manage agencies, clinics, organizations, or private practices; engage in academic, laboratory or medically related research to enhance knowledge about human communication processes; develop new methods and equipment to test and evaluate problems; establish more effective treatment programs; and investigate behavioral patterns associated with communication problems.

## Work Sites

The practice and work of speech-language pathologists may take place in various settings:

- Public and private schools
- Hospitals
- Rehabilitation centers
- Nursing care facilities
- Community clinics
- Colleges and universities
- Private practice offices
- State and local health departments
- State and federal government agencies
- Home health agencies ( home care)
- Long-term care facilities
- Adult day care centers
- Centers for persons with developmental disabilities
- Research laboratories

## Entry Requirements

To enter this career, one must have a sincere interest in helping people, an above average intellectual aptitude, and the sensitivity, personal warmth, and perspective to be able to interact with the person who has a communication problem. Scientific aptitude, patience, emotional stability, tolerance, and persistence are necessary, as well as resourcefulness and imagination. Other essential traits include a commitment to work cooperatively with others and the ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing.

During high school, prospective speech-language pathologists should consider a program with courses in biology, physics, social sciences, English and mathematics, as well as in public speaking, language and psychology. On the undergraduate level, a strong liberal arts focus is recommended, with course work in linguistics, phonetics, anatomy, psychology, human development, biology, physiology and semantics. A program of study in communication sciences and disorders is available at the undergraduate level. The work of a speech-language pathologists is further enhanced by graduate education, which is mandated by ASHA. Speech-language pathologists and audiologists are also required by ASHA to obtain the ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) which involves the completion of a master's degree, a supervised Clinical Fellowship (CF), and a passing score on a national examination. In some areas, such as college teaching, research, and private practice, a Ph.D. degree is desirable. In most states, speech-language pathologists and

audiologists also must comply with state regulatory (licensure) standards to practice and/or have state education certification. The requirements are very similar or identical to ASHA's CCC requirements.

## Earnings

Salaries of speech-language pathologists depend on their educational background, specialty and experience, along with the geographical location and type of setting in which they work. The median salary for ASHA-certified speech-language pathologists in 1997 was \$44,000. Persons in supervisory positions for example in administration and management, may earn well over \$53,000 per year. While the 1997 median salary for certified speech-language pathologists with 1-3 years experience was \$38,000, the median salary for certified speech-language pathologists with doctorate degrees was \$53,250. Good benefits packages, such as insurance programs and leave, are usually available to these professionals.

## Working Conditions

Because there is such a wide variety of employment settings, working conditions also vary. Facilities in most school systems and established clinics are comfortable and adequately equipped, as are most facilities for research, colleges, and private practice. Since speech and hearing services are a vital part of total health care and the educational system, the number of work sites is constantly expanding. Because of the increasing demand for these services, work schedules may be heavy. An additional challenge is the constant need to update knowledge through educational experiences and reading periodicals. These challenges are balanced by the satisfaction of contributing to the quality of life of adults and children through facilitating the vital need of persons to communicate effectively.

## Size of the Profession

The American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) represents 96,636 professionals. There are more than 79,000 ASHA-certified speech language pathologists. Also, there are approximately 1,400 persons who hold dual ASHA certification. That is, they are certified as both audiologists and speech-language pathologists. These individuals hold many major positions in clinical, academic, and research fields. There are an estimated 42,000 additional individuals who are providing services in the profession.

## Future Outlook

The future of the speech-language pathology profession appears excellent. More frequent recognition of problems in preschool and school age children by teachers and parents, combined with the increased numbers of older citizens, and medical advances has created a growing need for speech and language services. There are shortages of qualified personnel in some areas of the country, especially in the inner city, rural and less populated

areas. Job opportunities in medically related areas are expected to grow at an above average rate. Although competition for positions in some areas is keen, the potential for private practice and contract work is increasing rapidly.

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AMERICAN  
SPEECH-LANGUAGE-  
HEARING  
ASSOCIATION

## Scope of Practice, Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

*Committee on Interprofessional Relationships*

*The following document, prepared by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Committee on Interprofessional Relationships, was adopted as an official statement by the ASHA Legislative Council (LC 6-89) in November 1989. Current and past members of the committee responsible for the development of the document include Crystal S. Cooper, 1988-90 chair; John L. Petersom, 1988 chair; Rachel E. Stark, 1986-87 chair; Brenda L. B. Adamovich; Katharine G. Butler; Janina K. Casper; Becky S. Cornett; Ted A. Culler; Frank DeRuyter; Elaine S. Dunn; Anita S. Halper; Anne E. Seitz; Rosalind R. Scudder; Barbara Shadaen; and Brenda Y. Terrell. Michelle M. Ferketic, 1988-89 ex officio; Lynette R. Goldberg, 1989-90 ex officio; Carol Kamara, 1986-87 ex officio; Patricia G. Larkins, 1988 ex officio. Ann L. Carey, current vice president for professional and governmental affairs, and Nancy Becker, vice president for professional and governmental affairs, were monitoring vice presidents.*

### Preamble

The purpose of this statement is to define the scope of practice of speech-language pathology and audiology in order to: (1) inform members of ASHA and certificate holders of the activities for which certification in the appropriate area is required in accordance with the ASHA Code of Ethics; and (2) educate health-care and education professionals, consumers, and members of the general public of the services offered by speech-language pathologists and audiologists as qualified providers.

The scope of practice defined here, and the areas specifically set forth, are part of an effort to establish the broad range of services offered within the profession. It is recognized, however, that levels of experience, skill and proficiency with respect to the

activities identified within the scope of practice will vary among the individual providers. Similarly, it is recognized that related fields and professions may have knowledge, skills and experience which may be applied to some areas within the scope of practice. By defining the scope of practice of speech-language pathologists and audiologists, there is no intention to exclude members of other professions or related fields from rendering services in common practice areas for which they are competent by virtue of their respective disciplines.

Nothing in the scope of practice statement is intended to affect the licensure laws of the various states or the implementation or interpretation of such laws.

Finally, it is recognized that speech-language pathology and audiology are dynamic and continuously developing practice areas. In setting forth some specific areas as included within the scope of practice, there is no intention that the list be exhaustive or that other, new, or emerging areas be precluded from being considered as within the scope of practice.

### Statement

Speech-language pathologists and audiologists hold either the master's or doctoral degree, the Certificate of Clinical Competence of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, and state license where applicable. These professionals identify, assess, and provide treatment for individuals of all ages with communication disorders. They manage and supervise programs and services related to human communication and its disorders. Speech-language pathologists and audiologists counsel individuals with disorders of communication, their families, caregivers and other service providers relative to the disability present and its management. They provide consultation and make referrals. Facilitating the development and maintenance of human communication is the common goal of speech-language pathologists and audiologists.

Reference this material as: American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (1990). Scope of practice, speech-language pathology and audiology. *Asha*, 32 (Suppl. 2), 1-2. Index terms: Scope of practice, speech-language pathology, audiology, autonomy, preferred practice patterns

HB 105: Licensing of Speech-Language Pathologists

Laura Young-Campbell, M.S., CCC-SLP  
P.O.Box 871045  
Wasilla, AK 99687

Dear Representatives Mulder and Therriault,  
Co-Chairs: House Finance

I am writing in support for the licensing of speech-language pathologists.

Although I currently work in the public schools, my education and training have allowed me to work with children and adults of all ages and a variety of disabilities. I deal with the treatment and diagnosis of those who have speech and/or language delays, voice disorders, require augmentative communication, are hard of hearing, have cleft lip/palates; and those who have impairments subsequent to stroke, head injury, oral cancer, and Parkinson's disease. As you can see, a speech-language pathologist needs to have extensive training to provide a variety of services in the area of communication disorders.

Currently, Alaska is one of six states that does not regulate the profession of speech-language pathology. I feel that as a state we may be putting our community members at risk if licensure is not passed. I, for one, would not want someone without the highest level of training to be providing speech pathology services to any member of my family. I am sure you or members of your committee would agree with me.

The requirement of certification from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (CCC-SLP), or its equivalent, establishes that speech-language pathologists will have a master's degree, have passed a national board examination, and have participated a clinical fellowship year (CFY), which is nine months of intensive supervision. This requirement will make sure that a speech-language pathologist has met the highest standard of training.

I encourage you to pass this important bill.  
Thank you for your consideration.

*Laura Young-Campbell*  
M.S., CCC-SLP