

## LEGISLATIVE REVIEW OF ADOPTED REGULATIONS AS REQUIRED BY NRS 233B.066

### LCB FILE R026-25

The following statement is submitted for adopted amendments to Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) Chapter 637B.

#### **1. A clear and concise explanation of the need for the adopted regulation.**

The need and purpose of the proposed regulation is to protect the public health, safety and welfare by ensuring that only qualified and competent speech-language pathologists, audiologists and hearing aid specialists are licensed in the state. The proposed regulation will provide clarity for the public, individuals and licensees through regulation regarding requirements for the following:

#### **Sections 2-3: “Direct Supervision” & “Indirect Supervision”.**

Added to the chapter to address permissible types of supervision for SLP Assistants.

#### **Section 4: “Plan of Care”**

The existing chapter currently uses the term “plan of action” (NAC 637B.042) but with the addition of new sections addressing SLP Assistants, the term was revised to apply to the work of all three practice areas regulated by the Board more universally.

#### **Section 5: Hearing Aid Specialist Academic & On-site Training & Work Experience**

Existing law, NRS 637B.193, requires hearing aid specialist (HAS) applicants to hold National Board Certification in Hearing Instrument Sciences (NBC-HIS). This requirement was removed in section 24 of A.B. 177 (2025), as this certification is costly, requires passage of a paid examination, and is more appropriately targeted as an advanced certification for seasoned practitioners. However, this certification was a convenient vehicle to ensure an applicant had completed sufficient academic training and on-site training and work experience, so this section is intended to clearly delineate education & training required for licensure.

#### **Sections 6-9: SLP Assistant Clinical Training Plan**

An SLP Assistant applicant may be eligible for licensure by holding a Bachelor’s degree in speech-language pathology or communication sciences and disorders, however the Board is aware that many undergraduate programs, including UNR and NSU struggle to provide students with much more than 10 hours of clinical observation, often due to a lack of opportunities or supervisors in the community. The Clinical Training Plan requirement was developed to allow applicants to obtain a license and begin working while completing additional training to obtain a total of 75 hours of clinical training (50 assisting & 25 observing) with additional supervision to supplement the undergraduate education and ensure competence for practice.

#### **Section 10: SLP Assistant Allowable & Prohibited Activities**

Not all activities within the SLP scope of practice are safe or permissible by an SLP Assistant; these sections delineate which activities are allowable when delegated to the assistant by the Supervising SLP, and activities that are always prohibited.

**Sections 11-14: SLP Assistant Supervision**

As a support role, the work of an SLP assistant must be supervised by at least one licensed supervising SLP, and these sections delineate how that supervision must be carried out.

**Section 15: Disclosure of Familial or Dating Relationships**

Both SLP assistants and hearing aid specialist (HAS) apprentices must be supervised by a licensed SLP or HAS at all times, and in some cases, these may be persons related to/known personally to them. These regulations do not prohibit these relationships in recognition of the lack of supervision options in some communities and in support of family businesses. But instead requires disclosure so the Board is aware of these relationships and can take this information into account should a complaint or concern arise regarding a supervisor or supervisee.

**Section 16: Codes of Ethics**

Allows application of a broader scope of standards to supplement the chapter in a more efficient way to stay up to date on evolving professional ethics.

**Section 17: Applicability of Chapter**

Supports the revision by A.B. 177 (2025) to limit exemption from the chapter to only a person who: 1) does not hold a license issued by this Board, 2) holds a current endorsement issued by the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) on or before September 30, 2026, and 3) provides SLP or audiology services as an employee in a public educational setting. This section ensures the Board has authority over all licensees regardless of employment setting. Those allowed to practice in Nevada or treat persons in Nevada without holding a Board license will be limited to a small number of staff working within NDE and “grandfathered” into their current role by recent revisions to NAC 391.

**Section 18: Fees**

Establishes lower initial and renewal license fees for SLP assistants and HAS apprentices, as they earn less than standard licensees. New fees for the issuance and renewal of a privilege-to-practice are established to support participation in the ASLP Interstate Compact, lower than full license fees as the “home” state will be responsible for conducting the full application review and renewal maintenance work. A \$25 increase in the fee for renewal of an inactive or temporary license is included to supplement rising operational costs, but will impact a very small number of licensees.

**Sections 19, 23, 27 and 29-34: “Dispensing” Audiologists & Hearing Aid Endorsement**

Before the passage of A.B. 177 (2025), existing law required an audiologist who engaged in the practice of fitting and dispensing hearing aids to obtain and pay for an additional endorsement to do so, which required passage of both written and practical dispensing examinations. This requirement was deemed redundant as audiologists hold a doctoral degree with extensive clinical training, and most states allow fitting and dispensing without examination or endorsement. The requirement also delayed licensure and imposed additional costs on applicants. This will significantly expedite initial licensing, increase the number of audiologists able to practice in Nevada, and hopefully attract new providers to the state.

**Section 20: Fee Waivers**

This section will provide the Board with the flexibility to waive or reduce fees in cases of licensee hardship or when deemed necessary by administrative changes. For example, when A.B. 177 (2025) takes effect, current “dispensing” audiologists will have paid an additional \$50 toward their license or

renewal for the repealed endorsement to fit and dispense hearing aids. This section will allow the Board to consider refunding all or part of those fees that will not apply after January 1, 2026.

#### **Sections 21- 22: Hearing Aid Specialist Provisional License**

As referenced in [section 5](#), existing law, NRS 637B.193 requires hearing aid specialist (HAS) applicants to hold National Board Certification in Hearing Instrument Sciences (NBC-HIS) but was removed in A.B. 177 (2025). Under the current law, a provisional HAS license can be issued to a person meeting all other eligibility criteria for a license except this certification. This section establishes that a provisional license may be instead issued to a person meeting all other eligibility criteria for a license except the training referenced in section 5.

#### **Section 23: “Dispensing” Audiologists & Hearing Aid Endorsement**

Please see [section 19](#).

#### **Section 24: Apprentice Training Credit**

Allows the Board to accept in-service training completed outside of Nevada to lessen the training time required of an apprentice, reducing costs for the apprentice and expediting their eligibility to obtain a standard license.

#### **Sections 25-26**

Makes conforming changes related to [section 5](#).

#### **Section 27: Apprentice Sponsorship**

Revises apprentice sponsor eligibility requirements as a conforming change to removal of “dispensing” audiologists referenced in [section 19](#).

#### **Section 28: Professional Responsibility**

Removal of the requirement for a licensee to notify the Board in writing after a criminal charge is filed against the licensee provides licensees with a presumption of innocence and mitigates the potential for public/disciplinary action related to an unresolved event. Increasing the time within which a licensee is required to provide written notice to the Board concerning certain criminal, civil and disciplinary actions taken or filed against them provides a more time within which licensees may maintain reporting compliance in the midst of a personal or professional crisis.

#### **Sections 29-33: “Dispensing” Audiologists & Hearing Aid Endorsement**

Please see [section 19](#).

#### **Section 34: Complaints Against Licensees**

The current chapter allows the Board to require a sponsor of a hearing aid specialist apprentice to be present at any proceeding regarding a complaint against the apprentice. This section extends that authority to SLPs and new SLP assistants, given that supervising SLPs will be responsible for supervising and signing off on SLPA work in the same manner.

**2. A description of how public comment was solicited, a summary of public response, and an explanation of how other interested persons may obtain a copy of the summary.**

A Public Workshop was held to solicit comments on the proposed regulations on July 9, 2025. Public comment was solicited through the dissemination of a *Notice of Public Workshop* that was sent/posted on June 16, 2025 as follows:

- **Emailed to:** All licensed speech-language pathologists, audiologists, hearing aid specialists, and all persons on the Board's mailing list for administrative regulations.
- **Deposited with** the State Library, Archives And Public Records Administrator.
- **Posted at the following physical locations:** State of Nevada, Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology & Hearing Aid Specialists Board Office, 6170 Mae Anne Avenue, Suite 1, Reno, Nevada 89523.
- **Posted online at the following websites:**
  - Nevada Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology And Hearing Aid Dispensing Board:  
<https://www.nvspeechhearing.org/about/minutes.asp>
  - State of Nevada Public Notices: [www.notice.nv.gov](http://www.notice.nv.gov)
  - Nevada Legislature Administrative Regulation Notices, Meetings and Workshops:  
<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/app/notice/a/>

There were 11 individuals representing businesses, licensees, and the general public in attendance at the Workshop. One written comment was received from the American Speech-Hearing Association (ASHA) in support of the regulations and suggesting amendments regarding a number of areas related to speech-language pathology assistants. The following amendments were approved based on this public comment:

- *Section 17: Applicability of chapter.* Section 2, correct numbering error to redesignate as (1)(c). *Section 6:* Revised "an educational institution" to "an accredited institution" per ASHA public comment and consensus that the term is more appropriate.
- *Section 7: SLPA Clinical Training Plan.* Revise "60 days" to "90 days". Section 7.b. revise "120 days" to "180 days", per ASHA public comment and consensus that 90 days is reasonable to allow for completion of the Clinical Training Plan.
- *Section 10: SLPA Allowable & Prohibited Activities.* Revise "Treat a medically fragile client without direct supervision" to "Treat a medically fragile client without 100% direct supervision" per ASHA public comment and consensus that the addition of "100%" will clarify the language to ensure patient safety.
- *Section 12: SLPA Supervision Ratios.* "A supervising speech-language pathologist is responsible for determining the appropriate number of supervisees they can manage within their workload while maintaining the highest level of quality services provided. A supervising speech-language pathologist may not be the supervisor of record for a combined total of no more than three full-time equivalent persons listed below at the same time: (a) Provisional licensees; (b) Speech-language pathology assistants; (c) Students, per ASHA public comment and significant discussion on appropriate ratios to clarify the language to ensure patient safety.

A copy of this summary of the public response to the adopted regulation may be obtained from the Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensing Board at: 6170 Mae Anne Avenue,

Suite 1, Reno, Nevada 89523. Phone: (775) 787-3421. Email: [board@nvspeechhearing.org](mailto:board@nvspeechhearing.org) Website: <https://www.nvspeechhearing.org/about/Minutes.asp>

**A Public Hearing** was held to solicit comments on the proposed regulations on **October 15, 2025**. Public comment was solicited through the dissemination of a *Notice of Intent to Act Upon a Regulation* that was sent/posted on September 9, 2025 as follows:

- **Emailed to:** All licensed speech-language pathologists, audiologists, hearing aid specialists, and all persons on the Board's mailing list for administrative regulations.
- **Deposited with** the State Library, Archives And Public Records Administrator.
- **Posted at the following physical locations:** State Of Nevada, Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology & Hearing Aid Specialists Board Office, 6170 Mae Anne Avenue, Suite 1, Reno, Nevada 89523.
- **Posted online at the following websites:**
  - Nevada Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology And Hearing Aid Dispensing Board  
<https://www.nvspeechhearing.org/about/minutes.asp>
  - State of Nevada Public Notices: [www.notice.nv.gov](http://www.notice.nv.gov)
  - Nevada Office of Emergency Management (OEM ) Recovery Website (per state cyberattack):  
<https://www.oem.nv.gov/recovery/>
  - Nevada Legislature Administrative Regulation Notices, Meetings And Workshops:  
<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/app/notice/a/>

There were nineteen (19) individuals representing businesses, licensees, and the general public in attendance at the Public Hearing. No oral or written public comment was offered.

A copy of this summary of the public response to the adopted regulation may be obtained from the Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensing Board at: 6170 Mae Anne Avenue, Suite 1, Reno, Nevada 89523. Phone: (775) 787-3421. Email: [board@nvspeechhearing.org](mailto:board@nvspeechhearing.org) Website: <https://www.nvspeechhearing.org/about/Minutes.asp>

**3. The number of persons who:**

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| a) Attended the Public Hearing:                      | 19 |
| b) Testified at the Public Hearing                   | 0  |
| c) Submitted written comments to the Public Hearing: | 0  |

**4. For each person identified in paragraphs (c) and (d) of #3 above, the following information if provided to the agency conducting the hearing:**

Not applicable as no oral or written public comment were received at the Public Hearing.

**5. A description of how comment was solicited from affected businesses, a summary of their response, and an explanation of how other interested persons may obtain a copy of the summary.**

Comments were solicited from affected businesses in the same manner as they were solicited from the public. The one written comment received during the workshop was received from the American Speech-Hearing Association (ASHA), a national advocacy and professional practice organization. A copy of this summary of the public response to the adopted regulation may be obtained from the Speech-

Language Pathology, Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensing Board at: 6170 Mae Anne Avenue, Suite 1, Reno, Nevada 89523. Phone: (775) 787-3421. Email: [board@nvspeechhearing.org](mailto:board@nvspeechhearing.org). Website: <https://www.nvspeechhearing.org/about/Minutes.asp>

**6. If the regulation was adopted without changing any part of the proposed regulation, a summary of the reasons for adopting the regulation without change.**

These regulations were initially developed over the course of six public meetings held between February 2024 and January 2025 by the Board's Speech-Language Pathology Subcommittee, and were reviewed during the Board's January 2025 meeting, providing ample opportunity for the public to review and provide input leading up to the Public Workshop and Public Hearing. Edits suggested in a written public comment received at the Public Workshop on July 9, 2025 from the American Speech-hearing Association (ASHA) were included in the language sent to LCB for drafting in July 2025. There was no public comment at the October 15, 2025 Public Hearing and the regulations were adopted without changes from the language drafted by LCB in R026-25P.

**7. The estimated economic effect of the adopted regulation on the businesses which it is to regulate and on the public. These must be stated separately, and each case must include:**

**(a) Both adverse and beneficial effects; and**

There is no expected adverse economic effect of these adopted regulations on businesses or the general public. The Board only regulates individuals in the practice of speech-language pathology, audiology and the fitting and dispensing of hearing aids. The following sections will directly benefit businesses, practitioners, and the general public as follows:

- The regulations support removal of the requirement for audiologists to pass examinations that may delay licensure and maintain a special endorsement at an additional cost.
- The regulations support new licensing for SLP Assistants to support SLPs in Nevada and expand care and access to patients.
- The regulations support removal of the requirement for hearing aid specialists to hold NBC-IHS certification for licensure, which currently delays licensing and imposes an additional cost.
- The regulations establish lower fees for assistants and apprentices, and a new privilege-to-practice fee to support ASLP Interstate Compact participation.

**(b) Both immediate and long-term effects.**

Both immediate and long-term effects will include improving and clarifying existing law and regulatory requirements, increasing licensing opportunities across all three practice areas regulated by the Board, and increasing patient access to highly qualified, licensed practitioners. Businesses may experience the effect of more permissive regulations and more licensed providers to employ.

**8. The estimated cost to the agency for enforcement of the adopted regulations.**

There are no additional costs involved in the enforcement of these adopted regulations.

- 9. A description of any regulations of other state or government agencies which the proposed regulation overlaps or duplicates and a statement explaining why the duplication or overlapping is necessary. If the regulation overlaps or duplicates a federal regulation, the name of the regulating federal agency.**

The Board is not aware of any similar federal, state, or local standards regulating speech-language pathology, audiology and hearing aid dispensing professions. The adopted regulations do not duplicate any federal, state or local standards.

- 10. If the regulation includes provisions that are more stringent than a federal regulation which regulates the same activity, a summary of such provisions.**

The Board is not aware of any similar federal regulations of the same activity in which the adopted regulations are more stringent.

- 11. If the regulation provides a new fee or increases an existing fee, the total annual amount the agency expects to collect and the manner in which the money will be used.**

Section 18 establishes:

- New fees for the issuance and renewal of a privilege-to-practice through the ASLP Interstate Compact.
- New fees for the issuance, renewal, and reinstatement of apprentice and assistant licenses, set lower than standard license fees.
- A \$25 increase in the fee for renewal of an inactive or temporary license.

We are unable to determine the amount of these fees to be collected. The Board is self-funded, and all fees collected support Board operations.