

**PROPOSED REGULATION OF THE
SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY, AUDIOLOGY
AND HEARING AID DISPENSING BOARD**

LCB File No. R140-17

December 22, 2017

EXPLANATION – Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AUTHORITY: §§1-3, NRS 637B.132, 637B.191 and 637B.194; §4, NRS 637B.132, 637B.194 and 637B.235.

A REGULATION relating to professions; requiring a hearing aid specialist or dispensing audiologist to satisfy certain requirements relating to the issuance and renewal of a temporary license; requiring certain persons to satisfy certain requirements before a provisional license may be renewed; exempting an apprentice hearing aid specialist from participating in certain in-service training; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law requires the Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensing Board to adopt any regulations that are necessary to carry out the provisions governing audiologists, speech-language pathologists and hearing aid specialists. (NRS 637B.132) Existing law additionally requires the Board to adopt regulations regarding the practice of fitting and dispensing hearing aids, including regulations governing: (1) the licensing of hearing aid specialists and apprentices; (2) the educational and training requirements for hearing aid specialists and apprentices; (3) the examination concerning the practice of fitting and dispensing hearing aids; and (4) a program of in-service training for apprentices. (NRS 637B.194)

Existing law requires the Board to adopt regulations that set forth the manner in which a license or endorsement issued to an audiologist, speech-language pathologist or hearing aid specialist must be renewed. (NRS 637B.191) Existing law authorizes the Board to issue a temporary license to engage in the practice of fitting and dispensing hearing aids to any person who: (1) meets all the qualifications of a hearing aid specialist or dispensing audiologist; and (2) has not passed the examination concerning the practice of fitting and dispensing hearing aids. Existing law further sets forth that a temporary license: (1) is valid for not more than 6 months; and (2) may be renewed not more than once. (NRS 637B.200) **Section 2** of this regulation requires: (1) a hearing aid specialist or a dispensing audiologist to take the examination concerning the practice of fitting and dispensing hearing aids within 6 months after being issued

a temporary license by the Board; and (2) the Board to renew the temporary license for an additional 6 months if a hearing aid specialist or dispensing audiologist has taken but not passed the examination. **Section 2** further requires the temporary license to expire and not to be renewed or reissued by the Board if a hearing aid specialist or dispensing audiologist does not take the examination.

Existing law authorizes the Board to issue a provisional license to engage in the practice of fitting and dispensing hearing aids to a person who: (1) holds a license to engage in the practice of fitting and dispensing hearing aids in another state; and (2) is completing the training required for certification by the National Board for Certification in Hearing Instrument Sciences. Existing law further sets forth that a provisional license may be renewed not more than twice. (NRS 637B.201) **Section 3** of this regulation authorizes the Board to renew a provisional license to engage in the practice of fitting and dispensing hearing aids issued to certain persons if the person has not: (1) completed the training required for certification by the National Board for Certification in Hearing Instrument Sciences; or (2) achieved a passing score on the National Competency Examination. **Section 3** further requires the Board to not renew a provisional license if a person who have been issued a provisional license has: (1) completed the training required for certification; and (2) failed to apply to take the National Competency Examination.

Existing law requires the Board to adopt regulations setting forth the: (1) requirements for the supervision of a licensed apprentice; and (2) responsibilities of the apprentice and sponsor. (NRS 637B.235) Existing regulations: (1) create a program of in-service training in which an apprentice hearing aid specialist must participate; and (2) require the in-service training to consist of an academic and a work experience portion. (Section 4 of LCB File No. R129-15) **Section 4** of this regulation exempts an apprentice hearing aid specialist from the in-service training requirements if the apprentice hearing aid specialist: (1) holds an associate's degree in hearing instrument sciences; or (2) successfully completes a program of education or training in hearing instrument sciences which is approved by the Board.

Section 1. Chapter 637B of NAC is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 and 3 of this regulation.

Sec. 2. 1. *A hearing aid specialist or dispensing audiologist must take the written portion and the practical portion of the examination concerning the practice of fitting and dispensing hearing aids prescribed pursuant to NRS 637B.194 and section 3 of LCB File No. R129-15 within 6 months after the Board issues a temporary license to engage in the practice of fitting and dispensing hearing aids to the hearing aid specialist or dispensing audiologist pursuant to NRS 637B.200.*

2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, the Board will renew a temporary license to engage in the practice of fitting and dispensing hearing aids, which has been issued to a hearing aid specialist or dispensing audiologist pursuant to NRS 637B.200, for an additional 6 months if the hearing aid specialist or dispensing audiologist has:

(a) Taken the examination required pursuant to subsection 1; and

(b) Not achieved a passing score on the written portion or the practical portion of the examination.

3. If a hearing aid specialist or dispensing audiologist does not take the examination required pursuant to subsection 1 within the prescribed time, the temporary license expires and will not be renewed or reissued by the Board.

Sec. 3. *1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, the Board may renew a provisional license to engage in the practice of fitting and dispensing hearing aids, which has been issued to a person pursuant to NRS 637B.201, if the person has not:*

(a) Completed the training required for certification by the National Board for Certification in Hearing Instrument Sciences;

(b) Achieved a passing score on the National Competency Examination administered by the National Board for Certification in Hearing Instrument Sciences, or its successor organization, or another comparable examination approved by the Board; or

(c) Completed the training pursuant to paragraph (a) and achieved a passing score on the examination pursuant to paragraph (b).

2. The Board will not renew a provisional license which has been issued to a person who has:

(a) Completed the training required for certification by the National Board for Certification in Hearing Instruments Sciences; and

(b) Failed to apply to take the National Competency Examination administered by the National Board for Certification in Hearing Instrument Sciences , or its successor organization, or another comparable examination approved by the Board, at least 60 days before the expiration of the provisional license.

Sec. 4. Section 4 of LCB File No. R129-15 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 4. 1. ~~The~~ *Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, the* in-service training of a person who has been issued an apprentice license by the Board pursuant to section 27 of Assembly Bill No. 115, chapter 404, Statutes of Nevada 2015, at page 2299 (NRS 637B.195), must consist of:

(a) An academic portion, as set forth in section 5 of this regulation; and

(b) An on-site training and work experience portion which is competency-based, as set forth in section 6 of this regulation.

2. An apprentice shall participate in the in-service training set forth in subsection 1 under the direct supervision of a sponsor for a minimum of 2 years and, in accordance with section 31 of Assembly Bill No. 115, chapter 404, Statutes of Nevada 2015, at page 2300 (NRS 637B.238), may not serve as an apprentice for more than 3 years without passing the examination set forth in section 3 of this regulation.

3. An apprentice is not required to participate in the in-service training required by this section if the apprentice:

(a) Holds an associate's degree in hearing instrument sciences which is approved by the National Board for Certification in Hearing Instrument Sciences; or

(b) Successfully completes a program of education or training in hearing instrument sciences which is approved by the Board.