
ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 177—ASSEMBLYMEMBER GONZÁLEZ

PREFILED FEBRUARY 2, 2025

Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

SUMMARY—Makes various changes relating to audiology, fitting and dispensing hearing aids and speech-language pathology. (BDR 54-199)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Yes.

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

AN ACT relating to professions; providing for the licensure of speech-language pathology assistants; authorizing certain persons to engage in the supervised practice of speech-language pathology; establishing requirements for hearing aid specialists to provide tinnitus care; revising the scope of practice of audiologists, hearing aid specialists and speech-language pathologists; requiring certain persons to be licensed and regulated as audiologists or speech-language pathologists; increasing the maximum amount of certain fees; revising the required qualifications for and processes for issuing certain licenses; eliminating the requirement for a licensed audiologist to obtain an endorsement before engaging in the practice of fitting and dispensing hearing aids; revising provisions relating to the sale of hearing aids; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

1 Existing law: (1) with certain exceptions, requires a person who engages in the
2 practice of audiology, fitting and dispensing hearing aids or speech-language
3 pathology to be licensed by the Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology and
4 Hearing Aid Dispensing Board; and (2) prescribes the qualifications necessary to
5 obtain such licenses. (NRS 637B.160, 637B.193-637B.204, 637B.290) **Section 15**
6 of this bill expands the activities that constitute the practice of fitting and
7 dispensing hearing aids to include: (1) tinnitus care, when performed by a hearing
8 aid specialist with the qualifications prescribed in **section 11** of this bill; and (2) the
9 removal of cerumen in the course of inspecting ears or fitting and maintaining



10 hearing instruments. **Section 15** thereby authorizes a hearing aid specialist to
11 engage in those activities under the specified conditions. **Section 16** of this bill
12 expands the activities that constitute the practice of speech-language pathology to
13 include the use of stroboscopy, in addition to nasal endoscopy, for evaluating and
14 treating certain disorders. **Section 16** also revises terminology used to refer to
15 certain procedures that currently constitute the practice of speech-language
16 pathology. **Section 22** of this bill increases the maximum amount of certain fees
17 relating to such licensure. **Sections 27-29** of this bill authorize an applicant for
18 certain types of licenses which require the applicant to hold a license in another
19 state to satisfy this requirement by holding the required license in the District of
20 Columbia or any state or territory of the United States. **Section 30** of this bill
21 revises the procedures for issuing an expedited license by endorsement to practice
22 audiology or speech-language pathology. Existing law authorizes the Board to issue
23 a provisional license to practice audiology or speech-language pathology to certain
24 applicants affiliated with the military who are awaiting a decision by the Board on
25 an application for an expedited license by endorsement. (NRS 637B.204) **Section**
26 **39** of this bill repeals that authority, thereby making the procedures for issuing an
27 expedited license by endorsement under **section 30** applicable to all applicants for
28 such a license. **Sections 21 and 22** of this bill remove references to the repealed
29 section.

30 Existing law authorizes a student who is pursuing a degree in speech-language
31 pathology at certain institutions to engage in the unlicensed practice of speech-
32 language pathology. (NRS 637B.080) Existing law authorizes the Board to issue a
33 provisional license to engage in the practice of speech-language pathology to a
34 person in the process of completing certain clinical fellowship requirements. (NRS
35 637B.201) **Section 3** of this bill defines the term “speech-language pathology
36 provisional licensee” to refer to the holder of such a provisional license. **Section 26**
37 of this bill makes a conforming change to appropriately substitute the term defined
38 by **section 3**. **Section 9** of this bill authorizes the Board to issue a license as a
39 speech-language pathology assistant and prescribes the qualifications for such a
40 license. **Section 9** also requires the Board to adopt regulations governing the
41 licensure and practice of speech-language pathology assistants. **Section 10** of this
42 bill authorizes a speech-language pathology assistant, a speech-language pathology
43 provisional licensee or a speech-language pathology student to engage in the
44 practice of speech-language pathology only under the supervision of a supervising
45 speech-language pathologist. **Section 18** of this bill makes a conforming change to
46 reflect that a student engaged in the supervised practice of speech-language
47 pathology is subject to regulation by the Board pursuant to **section 10**. **Sections 35-**
48 **38** of this bill make conforming changes to clarify that a student who is engaging in
49 the supervised practice of speech-language pathology pursuant to **section 10** is not
50 engaging in the unauthorized practice of speech-language pathology. **Sections 2**
51 **and 4-8** of this bill define certain other terms relating to the supervised practice of
52 speech-language pathology and **section 12** of this bill establishes the applicability
53 of those definitions.

54 Existing law exempts from licensure and regulation by the Board a person who
55 practices audiology or speech-language pathology within the scope of a credential
56 issued by the Department of Education. (NRS 637B.080) **Section 18** eliminates that
57 exemption, thereby requiring such a person to be subject to licensure and regulation
58 by the Board. **Section 9** provides that a person who holds certain credentials issued
59 by the Department on or before September 30, 2026, which allow the holder to
60 teach pupils with speech and language impairments is qualified for licensure as a
61 speech-language pathology assistant.

62 **Sections 24, 25 and 28** of this bill revise the qualifications required to obtain a
63 license as a hearing aid specialist, a license as an apprentice to engage in the



64 practice of fitting and dispensing hearing aids or a provisional license to engage in
65 the practice of fitting and dispensing hearing aids.

66 Existing law authorizes the Board to grant an audiologist who wishes to engage
67 in the practice of fitting and dispensing hearing aids an endorsement to engage in
68 such practice as a dispensing audiologist. (NRS 637B.205) **Section 14** of this bill
69 includes within the practice of audiology certain activities that substantially overlap
70 with the practice of fitting and dispensing hearing aids, including ordering the use
71 of hearing aids. Accordingly, **section 39** repeals the separate endorsement for
72 dispensing audiologists and **sections 17, 19, 20, 22, 23, 25, 27 and 31-33** of this
73 bill make conforming changes to eliminate references to such endorsements and to
74 dispensing audiologists.

75 Federal law requires the United States Food and Drug Administration to
76 regulate over-the-counter hearing aids. (FDA Reauthorization Act of 2017 Pub. L.
77 No. 115-52, § 709, 131 Stat. 1005, 1065-67) Federal law and regulations prohibit
78 state or local governments from requiring the order, involvement or intervention of
79 a licensed person for a consumer to access an over-the-counter hearing aid. (Pub. L.
80 No. 115-52, § 709; 21 C.F.R. § 800.30) **Sections 13 and 34** of this bill prohibit the
81 Board from regulating or restricting the provision of over-the-counter hearing aids
82 unless a licensee violates federal law applicable to such devices. **Section 34** also
83 updates certain references to related federal regulations.

84 In 2022, the federal Food and Drug Administration repealed a regulation that
85 prohibited the sale of a hearing aid unless: (1) the person dispensing the hearing aid
86 has received a written statement or waiver stating that the patient’s hearing loss has
87 been medically evaluated and the patient may be considered a candidate for a
88 hearing aid; or (2) the patient waives the medical evaluation in writing. (87 FR
89 50755) **Section 32** removes conforming requirements from Nevada law governing
90 the sale of hearing aids by catalog, mail or the Internet, thereby authorizing such
91 sales without such a statement or waiver.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 **Section 1.** Chapter 637B of NRS is hereby amended by adding
2 thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 11, inclusive, of this
3 act.

4 **Sec. 2.** *“Speech-language pathology assistant” means a*
5 *person licensed pursuant to section 9 of this act to engage in the*
6 *practice of speech-language pathology under the supervision of a*
7 *supervising speech-language pathologist.*

8 **Sec. 3.** *“Speech-language pathology provisional licensee”*
9 *means any person who holds a provisional license issued pursuant*
10 *to NRS 637B.201 to engage in the practice of speech-language*
11 *pathology while completing the clinical fellowship requirements*
12 *for obtaining a Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-*
13 *Language Pathology issued by the American Speech-Language-*
14 *Hearing Association.*

15 **Sec. 4.** *“Speech-language pathology student” means an*
16 *unlicensed student who engages in the practice of*



1 *speech-language pathology under the supervision of a supervising*
2 *speech-language pathologist pursuant to section 10 of this act.*

3 **Sec. 5.** *“Supervising speech-language pathologist” means a*
4 *speech-language pathologist who supervises a speech-language*
5 *pathology assistant, speech-language pathology provisional*
6 *licensee or speech-language pathology student.*

7 **Sec. 6.** *“Supervision” means the provision of direction and*
8 *the evaluation of the tasks assigned by a supervising speech-*
9 *language pathologist to a speech-language pathology assistant,*
10 *speech-language pathology provisional licensee or speech-*
11 *language pathology student. The term includes, without limitation,*
12 *direct supervision, indirect supervision and telesupervision.*

13 **Sec. 7.** *“Telesupervision” means the real-time, distance*
14 *observation by a supervising speech-language pathologist of*
15 *services delivered by a speech-language pathology assistant,*
16 *speech-language pathology provisional licensee or speech-*
17 *language pathology student, with feedback or assistance provided*
18 *by the supervising speech-language pathologist as needed. The*
19 *term may include, without limitation, the utilization of technology*
20 *which allows a supervising speech-language pathologist to view*
21 *and communicate with the client and speech-language pathology*
22 *assistant, speech-language pathology provisional licensee or*
23 *speech-language pathology student in real time through virtual*
24 *telecommunication software, webcam, telephone or other similar*
25 *devices and services to provide immediate feedback.*

26 **Sec. 8.** *“Tinnitus care” means the assessment of tinnitus*
27 *symptoms and advising patients on sound therapy techniques and*
28 *other strategies to address tinnitus symptoms.*

29 **Sec. 9.** *1. An applicant for a license to engage in the*
30 *practice of speech-language pathology as a speech-language*
31 *pathology assistant must hold:*

32 *(a) A bachelor’s degree or master’s degree in speech-language*
33 *pathology or communication sciences and disorders awarded by:*

34 *(1) An educational institution that is accredited by an*
35 *accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of*
36 *Education; or*

37 *(2) A foreign school which is accredited by an accrediting*
38 *agency approved by the Board and which provides an educational*
39 *program that is substantially equivalent to the educational*
40 *program provided by an institution described in subparagraph (1);*
41 *or*

42 *(b) A current endorsement issued on or before September 30,*
43 *2026, by the Department of Education pursuant to NRS 391.019*
44 *and any regulations adopted pursuant thereto which allows a*



1 *person to teach pupils who have speech and language*
2 *impairments.*

3 2. *The Board shall adopt regulations regarding speech-*
4 *language pathology assistants, including, without limitation:*

5 (a) *The licensing of speech-language pathology assistants;*

6 (b) *The educational and training requirements for speech-*
7 *language pathology assistants, in addition to the requirements*
8 *prescribed by subsection 1; and*

9 (c) *The practice of speech-language pathology by speech-*
10 *language pathology assistants.*

11 **Sec. 10. 1.** *A speech-language pathology assistant, speech-*
12 *language pathology provisional licensee or speech-language*
13 *pathology student may engage in the practice of speech-language*
14 *pathology only under the supervision of a supervising speech-*
15 *language pathologist and in accordance with the provisions of this*
16 *chapter and any regulations adopted pursuant thereto.*

17 2. *A speech-language pathology student who engages in the*
18 *practice of speech-language pathology must be enrolled in a*
19 *program to obtain a bachelor's degree or master's degree in the*
20 *field of speech-language pathology or communication sciences*
21 *and disorders at an educational institution that is accredited by a*
22 *nationally recognized agency under the United States Department*
23 *of Education.*

24 3. *The Board shall adopt regulations regarding the*
25 *supervision of speech-language pathology assistants, speech-*
26 *language pathology provisional licensees and speech-language*
27 *pathology students.*

28 **Sec. 11.** *A hearing aid specialist shall not provide tinnitus*
29 *care unless the hearing aid specialist:*

30 1. *Holds a certificate as a Tinnitus Care Provider issued by*
31 *the International Hearing Society, or its successor organization;*
32 *or*

33 2. *Has completed a program that is:*

34 (a) *Equivalent to the Tinnitus Care Provider Program offered*
35 *by the International Hearing Society, or its successor*
36 *organization; and*

37 (b) *Approved by the Board.*

38 **Sec. 12.** *NRS 637B.020 is hereby amended to read as follows:*

39 637B.020 *As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise*
40 *requires, the words and terms defined in NRS 637B.025 to*
41 *637B.075, inclusive, and sections 2 to 8, inclusive, of this act have*
42 *the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.*

43 **Sec. 13.** *NRS 637B.044 is hereby amended to read as follows:*

44 637B.044 *“Hearing aid” : {means any:}*



1 1. ~~[Device]~~ *Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2,*
2 *means:*

3 (a) *Any device* worn by a person who suffers from impaired
4 hearing for the purpose of amplifying sound to improve hearing or
5 compensate for impaired hearing, including, without limitation, an
6 earmold; and

7 (b) *Any part, attachment or accessory for a device described in*
8 *paragraph (a).*

9 2. ~~[Part, attachment or accessory for such a device.]~~ *Does not*
10 *include an over-the-counter hearing aid, as defined in 21 C.F.R. §*
11 *800.30.*

12 **Sec. 14.** NRS 637B.050 is hereby amended to read as follows:

13 637B.050 "Practice of audiology" means the application of
14 principles, methods and procedures relating to hearing and balance,
15 hearing disorders and related speech and language disorders and
16 includes, without limitation:

17 1. The conservation of auditory system functions;

18 2. Screening, identifying, assessing and interpreting,
19 preventing and rehabilitating auditory and balance system disorders;

20 3. The selection, fitting, programming , ~~[and]~~ dispensing *and*
21 *ordering the use* of hearing aids, the programming of ~~[cochlear~~
22 ~~implants]~~ *implantable hearing devices* and other technology which
23 assists persons with hearing loss and training persons to use such
24 technology;

25 4. Providing vestibular and auditory rehabilitation, cerumen
26 management and associated counseling services;

27 5. Conducting research on hearing and hearing disorders for
28 the purpose of modifying disorders in communication involving
29 speech, language and hearing; *and*

30 6. Providing referral services for medical diagnosis and
31 treatment . ~~;~~ ~~and~~

32 ~~—7.— At the request of a physician, participating in the diagnosis~~
33 ~~of a person.]~~

34 **Sec. 15.** NRS 637B.055 is hereby amended to read as follows:

35 637B.055 "Practice of fitting and dispensing hearing aids"
36 means measuring human hearing and selecting, adapting,
37 distributing , ~~[or]~~ selling *or ordering the use of* hearing aids and
38 includes, without limitation:

39 1. Making impressions for earmolds;

40 2. Administering and interpreting tests of human hearing and
41 middle ear functions;

42 3. Determining whether a person who suffers from impaired
43 hearing would benefit from a hearing aid;

44 4. Selecting , ~~[and]~~ fitting *and ordering the use of* hearing
45 aids;



1 5. Providing assistance to a person after the fitting of a hearing
2 aid;

3 6. Providing services relating to the care and repair of hearing
4 aids;

5 7. Providing supervision and in-service training concerning
6 measuring human hearing and selecting, adapting, distributing, ~~for~~
7 selling *or ordering the use of* hearing aids; ~~and~~

8 8. Providing referral services for clinical evaluation,
9 rehabilitation and medical treatment of hearing impairment ~~;~~;

10 *9. Removing cerumen in the course of inspecting ears or for*
11 *the purpose of making ear impressions or fitting and maintaining*
12 *hearing instruments; and*

13 *10. Providing tinnitus care under the circumstances*
14 *authorized by section 11 of this act.*

15 **Sec. 16.** NRS 637B.060 is hereby amended to read as follows:

16 637B.060 “Practice of speech-language pathology” means the
17 application of principles, methods and procedures relating to the
18 development and effectiveness of human communication, and
19 disorders of human communication, and includes, without
20 limitation:

21 1. The prevention, screening, consultation, assessment,
22 treatment, counseling, collaboration and referral services for
23 disorders of speech, fluency, resonance voice language, feeding,
24 swallowing and cognitive aspects of communication;

25 2. Augmentative and alternative communication techniques
26 and strategies;

27 3. Auditory training, speech reading and speech and language
28 intervention for persons who suffer from hearing loss;

29 4. The screening of persons for hearing loss and middle ear
30 pathology;

31 5. The use of *rigid* oral ~~and~~ *endoscopy, flexible* nasal
32 *endoscopy and stroboscopy* for the purpose of ~~[voceal tract imaging~~
33 ~~and visualization;]~~ *evaluating and treating disorders of speech,*
34 *voice, resonance and swallowing function;*

35 6. Selecting, fitting and establishing effective use of prosthetic
36 or adaptive devices for communication, swallowing or other upper
37 respiratory and digestive functions, not including sensory devices
38 used by persons with hearing loss;

39 7. Providing services to modify or enhance communication;

40 8. Providing referral services for medical diagnosis and
41 treatment; and

42 9. At the request of a physician, participating in the diagnosis
43 of a person.



1 **Sec. 17.** NRS 637B.075 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 637B.075 “Sponsor” means a hearing aid specialist or
3 ~~[dispensing]~~ audiologist who is responsible for the direct
4 supervision and in-service training of an apprentice in the practice
5 of fitting and dispensing hearing aids.

6 **Sec. 18.** NRS 637B.080 is hereby amended to read as follows:
7 637B.080 The provisions of this chapter do not apply to any
8 person who:

9 1. ~~[Holds a current credential issued by the Department of
10 Education pursuant to chapter 391 of NRS and any regulations
11 adopted pursuant thereto and engages in the practice of audiology or
12 speech language pathology within the scope of that credential;
13 —2.]~~

14 Is employed by the Federal Government and engages in the
15 practice of audiology or speech-language pathology within the
16 scope of that employment;

17 ~~[3.]~~ 2. Is a student enrolled in a program or school approved by
18 the Board, is pursuing a degree in audiology ~~[or speech language
19 pathology]~~ and is clearly designated to the public as a student; or

20 ~~[4.]~~ 3. Holds a current license issued pursuant to chapters 630
21 to 637, inclusive, 640 to 641D, inclusive, or 653 of NRS,

22 ↪ and who does not engage in the private practice of audiology or
23 speech-language pathology in this State.

24 **Sec. 19.** NRS 637B.100 is hereby amended to read as follows:
25 637B.100 1. The Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology
26 and Hearing Aid Dispensing Board, consisting of seven members
27 appointed by the Governor, is hereby created.

28 2. The Governor shall appoint:

29 (a) Three members who are speech-language pathologists, each
30 of whom must practice in a different setting, including, without
31 limitation, a university, public school, hospital or private practice;

32 (b) Two members who are audiologists ; ~~[, at least one of whom
33 must be a dispensing audiologist;]~~

34 (c) One member who is a hearing aid specialist; and

35 (d) One member who is a representative of the general public.

36 This member must not be:

37 (1) A speech-language pathologist, a hearing aid specialist or
38 an audiologist; or

39 (2) The spouse or the parent or child, by blood, marriage or
40 adoption, of a speech-language pathologist, a hearing aid specialist
41 or an audiologist.

42 3. Each member of the Board who is an audiologist, a speech-
43 language pathologist or a hearing aid specialist must:

44 (a) Have practiced, taught or conducted research in his or her
45 profession for the 3 years immediately preceding the appointment;
46 and



1 (b) Hold a current license issued pursuant to this chapter.

2 4. A person who is a stockholder in a manufacturer of hearing
3 aids may not be selected to or serve as a member of the Board.

4 5. After the initial terms, each member of the Board serves a
5 term of 3 years.

6 6. A member of the Board shall not serve for more than two
7 terms.

8 7. If a vacancy occurs during the term of a member, the
9 Governor shall appoint a person similarly qualified to replace that
10 member for the remainder of the unexpired term.

11 **Sec. 20.** NRS 637B.132 is hereby amended to read as follows:

12 637B.132 The Board shall:

13 1. Enforce the provisions of this chapter and any regulations
14 adopted pursuant thereto;

15 2. Prepare and maintain a record of its proceedings, including,
16 without limitation, any administrative proceedings;

17 3. Evaluate the qualifications and determine the eligibility of
18 an applicant for any license ~~for endorsement of a license~~ issued
19 pursuant to this chapter and, upon payment of the appropriate fee,
20 issue the appropriate license ~~for endorsement of a license~~ to a
21 qualified applicant;

22 4. Adopt regulations establishing standards of practice for
23 persons licensed ~~for endorsed~~ pursuant to this chapter and any other
24 regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter;

25 5. Require a person licensed ~~for endorsed~~ pursuant to this
26 chapter to submit to the Board documentation required by the Board
27 to determine whether the person has acquired the skills necessary to
28 engage in the practice of audiology, speech-language pathology or
29 fitting and dispensing hearing aids;

30 6. Investigate any complaint received by the Board against any
31 person licensed ~~for endorsed~~ pursuant to this chapter;

32 7. Hold hearings to determine whether any provision of this
33 chapter or any regulation adopted pursuant to this chapter has been
34 violated; and

35 8. Unless the Board determines that extenuating circumstances
36 exist, forward to the appropriate law enforcement agency any
37 substantiated information submitted to the Board concerning a
38 person who engages in the practice of or offers to engage in the
39 practice of audiology, speech-language pathology or fitting and
40 dispensing hearing aids without the appropriate license ~~for~~
41 ~~endorsement~~ issued pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

42 **Sec. 21.** NRS 637B.160 is hereby amended to read as follows:

43 637B.160 Except as otherwise provided in NRS 637B.195,
44 637B.200, 637B.201 ~~;~~ and 637B.203 , ~~and 637B.204,~~ to be
45 eligible for licensing by the Board, an applicant for a license to



engage in the practice of audiology, speech-language pathology or fitting and dispensing hearing aids must:

1. Be a natural person of good moral character;
2. Pass an examination prescribed by the Board pursuant to NRS 637B.191 or 637B.194, as applicable;
3. Pay the fees provided for in this chapter; and
4. Submit all information required to complete an application for a license.

Sec. 22. NRS 637B.175 is hereby amended to read as follows:

637B.175 1. The Board shall charge and collect only the following fees whose amounts must be determined by the Board, but may not exceed:

Application fee	[\$150] \$300
License fee.....	[100] 200
Fee for the renewal of a license.....	[100] 200
Reinstatement fee	[100] 300
Examination fee.....	[300] 500
Fee for converting to a different type of license.....	50
Fee for each additional license for endorsement	50
Fee for obtaining license information.....	[50] 200

2. If an ~~applicant~~ *active member of, or the spouse of an active member of, the Armed Forces of the United States, a veteran or the surviving spouse of a veteran* submits an application for a license by endorsement pursuant to NRS ~~[637B.204,]~~ *637B.203*, the Board shall collect not more than one-half of the fee set forth in subsection 1 for the initial issuance of the license.

3. All fees are payable in advance and may not be refunded.

4. As used in this section, "veteran" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 417.005.

Sec. 23. NRS 637B.191 is hereby amended to read as follows:

637B.191 1. The Board shall adopt regulations prescribing:

(a) The examinations required pursuant to NRS 637B.160 and concerning the practice of audiology and the practice of speech-language pathology;

(b) The period for which a license issued pursuant to the provisions of this chapter is valid which, except as otherwise provided in NRS 637B.200 and 637B.202, must be not less than 1 year; and

(c) The manner in which a license ~~for endorsement~~ issued pursuant to this chapter must be renewed, which may include requirements for continuing education.

2. The Board may adopt regulations providing for the late renewal of a license and the reinstatement of an expired license,



1 except that the Board must not renew or reinstate a license more
2 than 3 years after the license expired.

3 3. The Board may, at the request of a person licensed pursuant
4 to this chapter, place a license on inactive status if the holder of the
5 license:

6 (a) Does not engage in, or represent that the person is authorized
7 to engage in, the practice of audiology, speech-language pathology
8 or fitting and dispensing hearing aids in this State; and

9 (b) Satisfies any requirements for continuing education
10 prescribed by the Board pursuant to this section.

11 **Sec. 24.** NRS 637B.193 is hereby amended to read as follows:

12 637B.193 An applicant for a license to engage in the practice
13 of fitting and dispensing hearing aids must:

14 1. Successfully complete a program of education or training
15 approved by the Board which requires, without limitation, that the
16 applicant:

17 (a) Hold an associate's degree or bachelor's degree in hearing
18 instrument sciences; ~~{or}~~

19 (b) Hold a high school diploma or its equivalent or an
20 associate's degree or bachelor's degree in any field other than
21 hearing instrument sciences, and successfully complete a training
22 program in hearing instrument sciences as prescribed by regulation
23 of the Board ~~{,}~~; *or*

24 *(c) Hold a current certification issued by the National Board
25 for Certification in Hearing Instrument Sciences.*

26 2. ~~{Except as otherwise provided in NRS 637B.201, be
27 certified by the National Board for Certification in Hearing
28 Instrument Sciences.~~

29 ~~—3.}~~ Pass the examination prescribed pursuant to
30 NRS 637B.194.

31 ~~{4.}~~ 3. Comply with the regulations adopted pursuant to
32 NRS 637B.194.

33 ~~{5.}~~ 4. Include in his or her application the complete street
34 address of each location from which the applicant intends to engage
35 in the practice of fitting and dispensing hearing aids.

36 **Sec. 25.** NRS 637B.194 is hereby amended to read as follows:

37 637B.194 The Board shall adopt regulations regarding the
38 practice of fitting and dispensing hearing aids, including, without
39 limitation:

40 1. The licensing of hearing aid specialists and apprentices;

41 2. The educational and training requirements for hearing aid
42 specialists and apprentices ~~{,}~~ *which must include, without
43 limitation, on-site training and work experience;*



1 3. The examination required pursuant to NRS 637B.160,
2 637B.193 ~~[637B.205]~~ and 637B.238 concerning the practice of
3 fitting and dispensing hearing aids; and

4 4. A program of in-service training for apprentices.

5 **Sec. 26.** NRS 637B.197 is hereby amended to read as follows:

6 637B.197 Except for ~~[the holder of a provisional license issued~~
7 ~~pursuant to NRS 637B.201]~~ *a speech-language pathology*
8 *provisional licensee* and in addition to the requirements set forth in
9 NRS 637B.196, a speech-language pathologist must hold a current
10 ~~[certificate of clinical competence]~~ *Certificate of Clinical*
11 *Competence in Speech-Language Pathology* issued by the
12 American Speech-Language-Hearing Association or its successor
13 organization approved by the Board.

14 **Sec. 27.** NRS 637B.200 is hereby amended to read as follows:

15 637B.200 1. The Board may issue a temporary license to
16 engage in the practice of:

17 (a) Audiology, speech-language pathology or fitting and
18 dispensing hearing aids upon application and the payment of the fee
19 required pursuant to NRS 637B.175 to any person who is so
20 licensed in ~~[another]~~ *the District of Columbia or any state or*
21 *territory of the United States* and who meets all the qualifications
22 for licensing in this State; and

23 (b) Fitting and dispensing hearing aids upon application and
24 payment of the fee required pursuant to NRS 637B.175 to any
25 person who meets all the qualifications for licensing as a hearing aid
26 specialist ~~[for an endorsement of a license to engage in the practice~~
27 ~~of fitting and dispensing hearing aids]~~ other than passing the
28 examination concerning the practice of fitting and dispensing
29 hearing aids prescribed pursuant to NRS 637B.194.

30 2. The Board may issue a temporary license to engage in the
31 practice of audiology, speech-language pathology or fitting and
32 dispensing hearing aids upon application and payment of the fee
33 required pursuant to NRS 637B.175 to any spouse of a member of
34 the Armed Forces of the United States who:

35 (a) Is so licensed in ~~[another state;]~~ *the District of Columbia or*
36 *any state or territory of the United States;* and

37 (b) Attests that he or she meets all of the qualifications for
38 licensure in this State.

39 3. A temporary license issued pursuant to this section:

40 (a) Is valid for not more than 6 months;

41 (b) May be renewed not more than once; and

42 (c) May be converted to ~~[an active]~~ *a standard* license upon the
43 completion of all requirements for a license and payment of the fee
44 required by NRS 637B.175.



1 **Sec. 28.** NRS 637B.201 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 637B.201 1. Upon application and payment of the
3 application fee required pursuant to NRS 637B.175, the Board may
4 issue a provisional license to engage in the practice of:

5 (a) Speech-language pathology to a person who is completing
6 the clinical fellowship requirements for obtaining a ~~certificate of~~
7 ~~clinical competence~~ *Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-*
8 *Language Pathology* issued by the American Speech-Language-
9 Hearing Association.

10 (b) Fitting and dispensing hearing aids to a person who:

11 (1) Holds a license to engage in the practice of fitting and
12 dispensing hearing aids in ~~another state;~~ *the District of Columbia*
13 *or any state or territory of the United States;* and

14 (2) ~~Is completing the training required for certification by~~
15 ~~the National Board for Certification in Hearing Instrument~~
16 ~~Sciences.] Meets the requirements of paragraph (a), (b) or (c) of~~
17 *subsection 1 of NRS 637B.193 but has not yet completed the on-*
18 *site training and work experience required by the regulations*
19 *adopted pursuant to NRS 637B.194.*

20 2. A provisional license issued pursuant to this section may be:

21 (a) Renewed not more than twice; and

22 (b) Converted to ~~an active~~ *a standard* license upon payment of
23 the fee required pursuant to NRS 637B.175 for converting the
24 license and the ~~award~~ *submission to the Board* of ~~:-~~

25 ~~(1) A certificate of clinical competence] proof that the~~
26 *holder of the provisional license:*

27 (1) *Holds a current Certificate of Clinical Competence in*
28 *Speech-Language Pathology* issued by the American Speech-
29 Language-Hearing Association ~~;-or~~, *if the provisional license is to*
30 *engage in the practice of speech-language pathology.*

31 (2) ~~[Certification by the National Board for Certification in~~
32 ~~Hearing Instrument Sciences.] Has successfully completed the on-~~
33 ~~site training and work experience required by the regulations~~
34 ~~adopted pursuant to NRS 637B.194, if the provisional license is to~~
35 ~~engage in the practice of fitting and dispensing hearing aids.~~

36 **Sec. 29.** NRS 637B.202 is hereby amended to read as follows:

37 637B.202 1. Upon application and payment of the
38 application fee required pursuant to NRS 637B.175, the Board may
39 issue a limited license to engage in the practice of audiology or
40 speech-language pathology to a person who:

41 (a) Holds a current license to engage in the practice of audiology
42 or speech-language pathology in ~~another state;~~ *the District of*
43 *Columbia or any state or territory of the United States;* and



1 (b) Engages in the practice of audiology or speech-language
2 pathology in this State for demonstration, instructional or
3 educational purposes.

4 2. A limited license issued pursuant to this section is valid for
5 not more than 15 days.

6 **Sec. 30.** NRS 637B.203 is hereby amended to read as follows:

7 637B.203 1. The Board may issue a license by endorsement
8 to engage in the practice of audiology or speech-language pathology
9 to an applicant who meets the requirements set forth in this section.
10 An applicant may submit to the Board an application for such a
11 license if the applicant holds a corresponding valid and unrestricted
12 license to engage in the practice of audiology or speech-language
13 pathology, as applicable, in the District of Columbia or any state or
14 territory of the United States.

15 2. An applicant for a license by endorsement pursuant to this
16 section must submit to the Board with his or her application:

17 (a) Proof satisfactory to the Board that the applicant:

18 (1) Satisfies the requirements of subsection 1;

19 (2) Has not been disciplined or investigated by the
20 corresponding regulatory authority of the District of Columbia or
21 any state or territory in which the applicant currently holds or has
22 held a license to engage in the practice of audiology or speech-
23 language pathology, as applicable; and

24 (3) Has not been held civilly or criminally liable for
25 malpractice in the District of Columbia or any state or territory of
26 the United States;

27 (b) An affidavit stating that the information contained in the
28 application and any accompanying material is true and correct; and

29 (c) Any other information required by the Board.

30 3. Not later than 15 business days after receiving an application
31 for a license by endorsement to engage in the practice of audiology
32 or speech-language pathology pursuant to this section, the Board
33 shall provide written notice to the applicant of any additional
34 information required by the Board to consider the application.
35 Unless the Board denies the application for good cause, the Board
36 shall approve the application and issue a license by endorsement to
37 engage in the practice of audiology or speech-language pathology,
38 as applicable, to the applicant not later than 45 days after receiving
39 the application.

40 ~~[4. A license by endorsement to engage in the practice of~~
41 ~~audiology or speech language pathology may be issued at a meeting~~
42 ~~of the Board or between its meetings by the President of the Board.~~
43 ~~Such an action shall be deemed to be an action of the Board.]~~



1 **Sec. 31.** NRS 637B.236 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 637B.236 1. All work performed by a licensed apprentice
3 must be directly supervised by a hearing aid specialist or
4 ~~[dispensing]~~ audiologist, and the hearing aid specialist or
5 ~~[dispensing]~~ audiologist is responsible and civilly liable for the
6 negligence or incompetence of the licensed apprentice under his or
7 her supervision.

8 2. Any selection of a hearing aid for a customer made by a
9 licensed apprentice must be approved by a hearing aid specialist or
10 ~~[dispensing]~~ audiologist.

11 3. Any audiogram or sales document prepared by a licensed
12 apprentice must be signed by the apprentice and the supervising
13 hearing aid specialist or ~~[dispensing]~~ audiologist.

14 4. As used in this section:

15 (a) "Incompetence" means a lack of ability to practice safely and
16 skillfully as a licensed apprentice arising from:

17 (1) A lack of knowledge or training; or

18 (2) An impaired physical or mental capability, including an
19 alcohol or other substance use disorder.

20 (b) "Negligence" means a deviation from the normal standard of
21 professional care exercised generally by apprentices.

22 **Sec. 32.** NRS 637B.242 is hereby amended to read as follows:

23 637B.242 1. A hearing aid specialist or ~~[dispensing]~~
24 audiologist licensed pursuant to this chapter may sell hearing aids
25 by catalog, mail or the Internet if ~~[-~~:

26 ~~—(a) The hearing aid specialist or dispensing audiologist has~~
27 ~~received:~~

28 ~~—(1) A written statement signed by:~~

29 ~~—(I) A physician or physician assistant licensed pursuant to~~
30 ~~chapter 630 or 633 of NRS, an advanced practice registered nurse~~
31 ~~licensed pursuant to NRS 632.237, an audiologist or a hearing aid~~
32 ~~specialist which verifies that he or she has performed an otoscopic~~
33 ~~examination of the person to whom the hearing aid will be sold and~~
34 ~~the results of the examination indicate that the person may benefit~~
35 ~~from the use of a hearing aid;~~

36 ~~—(II) A physician or physician assistant licensed pursuant~~
37 ~~to chapter 630 or 633 of NRS, an audiologist or a hearing aid~~
38 ~~specialist which verifies that he or she has performed an audiometric~~
39 ~~examination of the person to whom the hearing aid will be sold and~~
40 ~~the results of the examination indicate that the person may benefit~~
41 ~~from the use of a hearing aid; and~~

42 ~~—(III) A dispensing audiologist or a hearing aid specialist~~
43 ~~which verifies that an ear impression has been taken of the person to~~
44 ~~whom the hearing aid will be sold; or~~



~~1 (2) A waiver of the medical evaluation signed by the person
2 to whom the hearing aid will be sold as authorized pursuant to 21
3 C.F.R. § 801.421(a)(2); and~~

~~4 (b) The~~ *the* person to whom the hearing aid will be sold has
5 signed a statement acknowledging that the hearing aid specialist or
6 ~~[dispensing]~~ audiologist is selling him or her the hearing aid by
7 catalog, mail or the Internet . ~~[based upon the information submitted
8 by the person in accordance with this section.]~~

9 2. A hearing aid specialist or ~~[dispensing]~~ audiologist who sells
10 hearing aids by catalog, mail or the Internet pursuant to this section
11 shall maintain a record of each sale of a hearing aid made pursuant
12 to this section for not less than 5 years.

13 3. The Board may adopt regulations to carry out the provisions
14 of this section, including, without limitation, the information that
15 must be included in each record required to be maintained pursuant
16 to subsection 2.

17 **Sec. 33.** NRS 637B.243 is hereby amended to read as follows:

18 637B.243 A hearing aid specialist or ~~[dispensing]~~ audiologist,
19 upon request by a physician or a member of a related profession
20 specified by the Board, may make audiograms for the physician's or
21 member's use in consultation with a person who suffers from
22 impaired hearing.

23 **Sec. 34.** NRS 637B.250 is hereby amended to read as follows:

24 637B.250 1. The grounds for initiating disciplinary action
25 pursuant to this chapter are:

26 (a) Unprofessional conduct.

27 (b) Conviction of:

28 (1) A violation of any federal or state law regarding the
29 possession, distribution or use of any controlled substance or any
30 dangerous drug as defined in chapter 454 of NRS;

31 (2) A felony or gross misdemeanor relating to the practice of
32 audiology, speech-language pathology or fitting and dispensing
33 hearing aids;

34 (3) A violation of any of the provisions of NRS 616D.200,
35 616D.220, 616D.240 or 616D.300 to 616D.440, inclusive; or

36 (4) Any offense involving moral turpitude.

37 (c) Gross or repeated malpractice, which may be evidenced by
38 claims of malpractice settled against a practitioner.

39 (d) Professional incompetence.

40 (e) Operation of a medical facility, as defined in NRS 449.0151,
41 at any time during which:

42 (1) The license of the facility is suspended or revoked; or

43 (2) An act or omission occurs which results in the suspension
44 or revocation of the license pursuant to NRS 449.160.



1 ↪ This paragraph applies to an owner or other principal responsible
2 for the operation of the facility.

3 2. As used in this section, “unprofessional conduct” includes,
4 without limitation:

- 5 (a) Conduct that is harmful to the public health or safety;
- 6 (b) Obtaining a license through fraud or misrepresentation of a
7 material fact;
- 8 (c) Suspension or revocation of a license to engage in the
9 practice of audiology, speech-language pathology or fitting and
10 dispensing hearing aids; and
- 11 (d) A violation of any provision of:

12 (1) Federal law concerning the practice of audiology, speech-
13 language pathology or fitting and dispensing hearing aids or any
14 regulations adopted pursuant thereto, including, without limitation,
15 21 C.F.R. §§ ~~[801.420]~~ **800.30** and ~~[801.421;]~~ **801.422;**

16 (2) NRS 597.264 to 597.2667, inclusive, or any regulations
17 adopted pursuant thereto; or

18 (3) This chapter or any regulations adopted pursuant thereto.

19 **Sec. 35.** NRS 637B.290 is hereby amended to read as follows:

20 637B.290 1. ~~[A]~~ ***Except as otherwise provided in this***
21 ***chapter, a*** person shall not engage in the practice of audiology,
22 speech-language pathology or fitting and dispensing hearing aids in
23 this State without holding a valid license issued pursuant to the
24 provisions of this chapter.

25 2. In addition to any other penalty prescribed by law, if the
26 Board determines that a person has engaged in the practice of
27 audiology, speech-language pathology or fitting and dispensing
28 hearing aids in this State without holding a valid license issued
29 pursuant to the provisions of this chapter ~~[I]~~ ***in violation of***
30 ***subsection 1,*** the Board may:

31 (a) Issue and serve on the person an order to cease and desist
32 until the person obtains from the Board the proper license or
33 otherwise demonstrates that he or she is no longer in violation of
34 subsection 1. An order to cease and desist must include a telephone
35 number with which the person may contact the Board.

36 (b) Issue a citation to the person. A citation issued pursuant to
37 this paragraph must be in writing, describe with particularity the
38 nature of the violation and inform the person of the provisions of
39 this paragraph. Each activity in which the person is engaged
40 constitutes a separate offense for which a separate citation may be
41 issued. To appeal a citation, the person must submit a written
42 request for a hearing to the Board not later than 30 days after the
43 date of issuance of the citation.

44 (c) Assess against the person an administrative fine of not more
45 than \$5,000.



1 (d) Impose any combination of the penalties set forth in
2 paragraphs (a), (b) and (c).

3 **Sec. 36.** NRS 637B.291 is hereby amended to read as follows:

4 637B.291 Unless the Board determines that extenuating
5 circumstances exist, the Board shall forward to the appropriate law
6 enforcement agency any substantiated information submitted to the
7 Board concerning a person who engages in the practice of or offers
8 to engage in the practice of audiology, speech-language pathology
9 or fitting and dispensing hearing aids without the appropriate license
10 issued pursuant to the provisions of this chapter **⚡ in violation of**
11 **NRS 637B.290.**

12 **Sec. 37.** NRS 637B.295 is hereby amended to read as follows:

13 637B.295 A member or any agent of the Board may enter any
14 premises in this State where a person who holds a license issued
15 pursuant to the provisions of this chapter engages in the practice of
16 audiology, speech-language pathology or fitting and dispensing
17 hearing aids and inspect it to determine whether a violation of any
18 provision of this chapter has occurred, including, without limitation,
19 an inspection to determine whether any person at the premises is
20 engaging in the practice of audiology, speech-language pathology or
21 fitting and dispensing hearing aids without the appropriate license
22 issued pursuant to the provisions of this chapter **⚡ in violation of**
23 **NRS 637B.290.**

24 **Sec. 38.** NRS 637B.310 is hereby amended to read as follows:

25 637B.310 1. The Board through its Chair or Vice Chair may
26 maintain in any court of competent jurisdiction a suit for an
27 injunction against any person engaging in the practice of audiology,
28 speech-language pathology or fitting and dispensing hearing aids
29 without a license valid under this chapter **⚡ in violation of**
30 **NRS 637B.290.**

31 2. Such an injunction:

32 (a) May be issued without proof of actual damage sustained by
33 any person, this provision being a preventive as well as a punitive
34 measure.

35 (b) Shall not relieve such person from criminal prosecution for
36 practicing without a license.

37 **Sec. 39.** NRS 637B.042, 637B.204 and 637B.205 are hereby
38 repealed.

39 **Sec. 40.** 1. This section becomes effective upon passage and
40 approval.

41 2. Sections 1 to 39, inclusive, of this act become effective:

42 (a) Upon passage and approval for the purpose of adopting any
43 regulations and performing any other preparatory administrative
44 tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act; and

45 (b) January 1, 2026, for all other purposes.



TEXT OF REPEALED SECTIONS

637B.042 “Dispensing audiologist” defined. “Dispensing audiologist” means a licensed audiologist who has obtained an endorsement from the Board to engage in the practice of fitting and dispensing hearing aids.

637B.204 Expedited license by endorsement to practice audiology or speech-language pathology for active member of Armed Forces, member’s spouse, veteran or veteran’s surviving spouse: Requirements; procedure for issuance; provisional license pending action on application.

1. The Board may issue a license by endorsement to engage in the practice of audiology or speech-language pathology to an applicant who meets the requirements set forth in this section. An applicant may submit to the Board an application for such a license if the applicant:

(a) Holds a corresponding valid and unrestricted license to engage in the practice of audiology or speech-language pathology, as applicable, in the District of Columbia or any state or territory of the United States; and

(b) Is an active member of, or the spouse of an active member of, the Armed Forces of the United States, a veteran or the surviving spouse of a veteran.

2. An applicant for a license by endorsement pursuant to this section must submit to the Board with his or her application:

(a) Proof satisfactory to the Board that the applicant:

(1) Satisfies the requirements of subsection 1;

(2) Has not been disciplined or investigated by the corresponding regulatory authority of the District of Columbia or any state or territory in which the applicant holds a license to engage in the practice of audiology or speech-language pathology, as applicable; and

(3) Has not been held civilly or criminally liable for malpractice in the District of Columbia or any state or territory of the United States;

(b) An affidavit stating that the information contained in the application and any accompanying material is true and correct; and

(c) Any other information required by the Board.

3. Not later than 15 business days after receiving an application for a license by endorsement to engage in the practice of audiology or speech-language pathology pursuant to this section, the Board



shall provide written notice to the applicant of any additional information required by the Board to consider the application. Unless the Board denies the application for good cause, the Board shall approve the application and issue a license by endorsement to engage in the practice of audiology or speech-language pathology, as applicable, to the applicant not later than 45 days after receiving all the additional information required by the Board to complete the application.

4. A license by endorsement to engage in the practice of audiology or speech-language pathology may be issued at a meeting of the Board or between its meetings by the President of the Board. Such an action shall be deemed to be an action of the Board.

5. At any time before making a final decision on an application for a license by endorsement pursuant to this section, the Board may grant a provisional license authorizing an applicant to engage in the practice of audiology or speech-language pathology, as applicable, in accordance with regulations adopted by the Board.

6. As used in this section, "veteran" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 417.005.

637B.205 Endorsement for certain licensees or applicants to practice fitting and dispensing hearing aids. An audiologist or an applicant for a license to engage in the practice of audiology who wishes to engage in the practice of fitting and dispensing hearing aids must:

1. Request an endorsement of the license to engage in the practice of fitting and dispensing hearing aids; and
2. Pass an examination prescribed by the Board pursuant to NRS 637B.194. The examination must be identical to the examination required for the licensure of hearing aid specialists.

