

**2003-04 SESSION
COMMITTEE HEARING
RECORDS**

Committee Name:

*Senate Committee on
Health, Children,
Families, Aging and
Long Term Care
(SC-HCFALTC)*

Sample:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- 03hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01a
- 03hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01b
- 03hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt02

➤ Appointments ... Appt

➤ **

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

➤ **

➤ Committee Hearings ... CH

➤ **

➤ Committee Reports ... CR

➤ **

➤ Executive Sessions ... ES

➤ **

➤ Hearing Records ... HR

➤ 03hr_ab0841b

➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

➤ **

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

➤ **

Halbur, Jennifer

From: Michelle Mettner [mmettner@broydrick.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2004 6:28 PM
To: Roessler, Carol
Cc: Halbur, Jennifer
Subject: Please Support AB 841

AB 841

Senator Roessler:

Thank you for scheduling AB 841 for hearing!

I am writing on behalf of the Wisconsin Speech Language Pathology & Audiology Association (WSHA) to **ask your support** of this legislation. WSHA (and the Alliance of Hearing Professionals/Merchant's Federation) support the efforts of the Hearing and Speech Examining Board to make several necessary and long-overdue changes to the regulation of hearing instrument specialists, audiologists, and speech-language pathologists.

Jerry Kupperman, Chair of the Hearing & Speech Examining Board will testify at the hearing about the positive changes made by AB841. Attached is a summary of the changes in the bill. AB 841 passed the Assembly Health Committee and Assembly Floor unanimously.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

Michelle

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Assembly Bill 841...relating to: various changes to the regulation of hearing instrument specialists, speech-language pathologists, and audiologists and granting rule-making authority.

BILL SPONSORS

Introduced by Representatives Underheim, Berceau, Kreibich, Townsend, Vrakas, Albers, Hines, Bies, Wasserman and Ott.

Cosponsored by Senator **Kedzie**.

BILL HISTORY

Assembly Bill 841 was introduced and referred to the Assembly Committee on Health on February 16, 2004. A public hearing and an Executive Session was held on February 17, 2004. The Assembly Committee on Health recommended AB 841 for passage: 14-0.

On February 26, 2004, AB 841 was referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Children, Families, Aging and Long Term Care. A public hearing was held on March 2, 2004. An Executive Session was held on March 3, 2004.

The Committee recommended concurrence on AB 841: 9-0.

LRB ANALYSIS

Current Law:

This bill makes the following changes to the regulation of hearing instrument specialists, audiologists, and speech-language pathologists by the Hearing and Speech Examining Board (board):

Under current law, a person may not engage in the practice of dealing in or fitting hearing aids unless he or she has a hearing instrument specialist license or training permit issued by the board. In addition, a person who is issued a training permit must be supervised by a licensed hearing instrument specialist.

Under current law, a person who is licensed as a hearing instrument specialist, an audiologist, or a speech-language pathologist must renew the license every two years. In addition, a person must complete 20 hours of continuing education to renew a license.

Current law specifies various grounds for which the board may discipline a person licensed as a hearing instrument specialist, a speech-language pathologist, or an audiologist. Under current law, the board may discipline a hearing instrument specialist for unprofessional conduct.

Under current law, the board may issue a temporary license that allows a person to practice as an audiologist or a speech-language pathologist for a period of no more than nine months. Under current law, a hearing instrument specialist or an audiologist must test the hearing or observe the ear canal of a person who purchases a hearing aid.

Under current law, persons who are licensed by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) as speech-language pathologists are exempt from the board's licensing requirements.

Under current law, a person may be licensed by the board as a speech-language pathologist if he or she satisfies certain requirements, including completion of a postgraduate clinical fellowship.

Under current law, a person is not allowed to use a title related to audiology or speech-language pathology, or practice audiology or speech-language pathology, unless he or she is issued a license by the board. Prior to July 1, 1993, such persons were issued certificates of registration by the board.

Proposed Changes:

Under this bill, a person licensed as an audiologist by the board may also supervise a person with a training permit. Under this bill, a person does not have to complete continuing education the first time he or she applies to renew a license, but must complete continuing education for each subsequent renewal.

This bill allows the board to discipline a speech-language pathologist or an audiologist who engages in unprofessional conduct as defined by rule by the board.

This bill eliminates the nine-month limit and allows the board to promulgate rules that designate the period of a temporary license. The rules may designate a period that terminates if an applicant fails to take the next available examination that is required for a license for reasons other than inaction by the board or hardship.

This bill requires the testing or observation also for a person for whom a hearing aid is purchased. The bill prohibits a hearing instrument specialist or audiologist from fitting or selling a hearing aid for a person 17 years or younger unless the person has been examined by a physician within the previous 90 days. Under current law, the prohibition applies to a person who is 16 years or younger.

This bill also exempts persons licensed as audiologists by DPI. In addition, the bill clarifies that the exemptions apply only if a person's entire practice of speech-language pathology or audiology is limited to the position for which the person is licensed by DPI.

This bill provides that a person may also complete education or training that the board determines is substantially similar to such a fellowship. This bill eliminates all outdated references to audiology and speech-language pathology certificates of registration.

Major Impact:

Assembly Bill 841 makes several changes relating to the regulation of hearing instrument specialists, audiologists, and speech-language pathologists.

FISCAL EFFECT

Department of Administration:

Increase Costs-May not be possible to absorb within agency's budget.

AB 841 clarifies several areas of the authority of the Hearing and Speech Examining Board. The proposal adds two members to the board. The proposal gives the authority to the defined unprofessional conduct by rule and to set the terms of the temporary licenses by rule.

TOTAL ONE-TIME COSTS: \$17,840

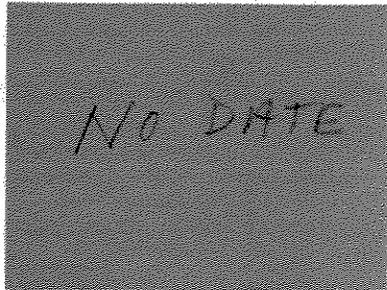
ONE-TIME COSTS FOR RULEMAKING: \$14,810

SUPPORT

The following person appeared in favor of this bill: (1) Gerard Kupperman, Ph.D, Hearing and Speech Examining Board, Oconomowoc.

	The following people registered in favor of this bill: (1) Senator Neal Kedzie, 11th Senate District; (2) Doug Johnson, WI. Merchants Federation and the WI. Alliance of Hearing Professionals, Madison; and (3) Michelle Mettner, WI Speech Language Pathology and Audiology Association, Madison.
OPPOSITION	No one appeared or registered in opposition to this bill.
INFORMATION	No one testified for information only.
CONTACT	Jennifer Halbur, Carol Roessler, 266-5300
DATE	March 10, 2004

ASSEMBLY BILL 841 (Underheim/Kedzie)



Relating to various changes to the regulation of hearing instrument specialists, speech-language pathologists, and audiologists.

- ~~Representative Underheim will testify.~~
- Michelle Mettner will likely testify.
- Passed the Assembly Health Committee 14-0 on Feb. 19th.
- Passed the Assembly on Feb. 25th.
- Department of Regulation and Licensing fiscal note is \$15, 016.
- **This bill clarifies several areas of the authority of the Hearing and Speech Examining Board (the LRB analysis of the bill numbers each change). The bill adds 2 members to the Board. It gives the Board the authority to define unprofessional conduct by rule and to set the terms of temporary licenses by rule.**