

CHAPTER 448

H.B. No. 356

An Act relating to certain requirements for a license as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Subsections (a) and (b), Section 13, Chapter 381, Acts of the 68th Legislature, Regular Session, 1983 (Article 4512j, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), are amended to read as follows:

(a) The committee on request must waive educational, professional experience, and examination requirements for licensure in speech-language pathology for applicants who hold a baccalaureate or graduate degree, are fully certified by the Central Education Agency in speech and hearing therapy or in the judgment of the committee have met equivalent requirements, and within two years prior to the effective date of this Act were engaged in the practice of speech pathology on proof of bona fide practice of speech pathology, presented to the committee in the manner prescribed by the committee's rules, provided they file an application for licensure with the committee or the board of health before *January 1, 1986* [~~August 31, 1984~~]. Such licenses shall be issued without delay and shall be renewed in the same manner as licenses granted under other provisions of this Act.

(b) The committee on request shall waive educational and [;] professional experience[; and examination] requirements for a license [licensure] in audiology for an licant[applicants] who, on the effective date of this Act, holds a [hold a baccalaureate or] graduate degree from an accredited institution of higher education with a major in speech-language pathology or [and have successfully completed 21 semester hours of course work in] audiology, and has been continuously [are] engaged in the practice of audiology for ten years immediately preceding the effective date of this Act [on proof of bona fide practice of audiology presented to the committee in the manner prescribed by the committee's rules], provided the applicant files [they file] an application for licensure with the committee on or before *January 1, 1986* [~~or the department within 90 days from the effective date of this Act~~]. Such an applicant must pass the licensing examination under Section 12 of this Act not later than *August 31, 1986*.

SECTION 2. A person who has filed an application for a license as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist on or after August 31, 1984, but before August 31, 1986, is entitled to a license under the special conditions prescribed by Section 13, Chapter 381, Acts of the 68th Legislature, Regular Session, 1983 (Article 4512j, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), if the person meets the requirements of that section.

SECTION 3. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended, and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Passed by the House on April 30, 1985, by the following vote: Yeas 137, Nays 1, 1 present, not voting; House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 356 on May 25, 1985, by the following vote: Yeas 143, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting; passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 21, 1985, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved: June 11, 1985

Effective: Immediately