

As Amended by House Committee

Session of 2026

HOUSE BILL No. 2761

By Committee on K-12 Education Budget

Requested by Representative Goetz

2-6

1 AN ACT concerning health professions and practices; relating to speech-
2 language pathology; enacting the speech-language pathology assistant
3 licensure act.

4

5 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

6 Section 1. (a) Sections 1 through 8 9, and amendments thereto, shall
7 be known and may be cited as the speech-language pathology assistant
8 licensure act and shall be a part of and supplemental to article 62 65 of
9 chapter 65 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto.

10 (b) As used in this act:

11 (1) "Certified speech-language pathology assistant" or "C-SLPA" means an individual who, following academic degree completion and
12 practicum or on-the-job training, completed the application and national
13 organization certification requirements of such organizations as the
14 American speech-language hearing association, performs tasks as
15 prescribed, directed and supervised by a licensed speech-language
16 pathologist who meets the qualifications of a supervising speech-language
17 pathologist.

18 (2) "Direct supervision" means on-site, in-view observation and
19 guidance by a speech-language pathologist while an assigned clinical
20 activity is being performed by a speech-language pathology assistant.
21 "Direct supervision" includes the supervising speech-language pathologist
22 viewing and communicating with the speech-language pathology assistant
23 through telecommunication technology while the speech-language
24 pathology assistant provides clinical services. "Direct supervision" does
25 not include reviewing an audio or video recorded session after such
26 session occurred.

27 (3) "Indirect supervision" means activities other than direct
28 observation and guidance conducted by a speech-language pathologist that
29 may include demonstration, record review, review and evaluation of audio
30 or videotaped sessions or interactive television.

31 (4) "Licensed speech-language pathology assistant" or "SLPA" means
32 an individual who meets the minimum qualifications established by the
33 secretary that are less stringent than those established by this act as
34 necessary for licensing as a speech-language pathologist **pathology**

1 **assistant**, does not act independently and works under the direction and
2 supervision of a speech-language pathologist licensed under this act.

3 (5) "Secretary" means the secretary of ~~health and environment~~ **aging**
4 **and disability services**.

5 (6) "Speech-language pathology" means the same as defined in
6 K.S.A. 65-6501, and amendments thereto.

7 (7) "Speech para" means a person without the qualifications
8 necessary to be considered a licensed ~~SLPA~~ **speech-language pathology**
9 **assistant**. A "speech para" may assist with activity preparation,
10 transporting a client or patient from class to the speech therapy room,
11 assisting with teletherapy technology issues and providing direct services
12 according to a plan developed by a licensed speech-language pathologist.

13 (8) "Supervising speech-language pathologist" means a speech-
14 language pathologist who holds a current Kansas license or a privilege to
15 practice in the state of Kansas and has two years of full-time professional
16 experience as a speech-language pathologist following successful
17 completion of a post graduate professional experience, such as clinical
18 fellowship experience.

19 (9) "Telepractice" means the delivery of services using
20 telecommunication and internet technology to remotely connect ~~SLPAs~~
21 **speech-language pathology assistants** to clients for intervention
22 purposes.

23 Sec. 2. (a) The secretary shall issue **the appropriate license as a**
24 **speech-language pathology assistant** to each person who has met the
25 educational and training requirements of this section and such other
26 reasonable qualifications as may be adopted by the secretary in rules and
27 regulations.

28 (b) A speech-language pathology assistant shall meet the following
29 qualifications for licensure under this act:

30 (1) (A) Completion of a bachelor's degree in communication sciences
31 and disorders from an accredited institution;

32 (B) a bachelor's degree in another field and 24 hours of core
33 coursework in communication sciences and disorders; or

34 (C) completion of ~~an~~ **SLPA a speech-language pathology assistant**
35 program from a regionally accredited institution that offers an associate's
36 degree, a technical training program or a certificate program; and

37 (2) completion of a supervised clinical experience that consists of 100
38 clock hours of supervised clinical fieldwork with direct client or patient
39 contact or clinical practicum that may be completed through an academic
40 practicum or while on the job under a supervising speech-language
41 pathologist.

42 (c) An applicant for licensure shall submit an application to the
43 secretary upon the forms prescribed and furnished by the secretary and pay

1 appropriate fees as established by the secretary. All licenses shall expire
2 after two years and may be renewed by submitting an application that
3 show proof of completing the required continuing education and paying a
4 renewal fee to be established by rule and regulation and collected by the
5 secretary. The secretary may issue a license for a period of less than two
6 years for the purpose of administratively adjusting renewals. In such case,
7 the licensee shall be charged a prorated renewal fee based upon the current
8 renewal fee structure.

9 (d) At least 30 days before the expiration of the license, the secretary
10 shall electronically notify the licensee of the expiration date through the
11 email address on file with the secretary. If the licensee fails to submit an
12 application and pay the appropriate fee by the date of expiration of the
13 license, the licensee shall be given a second notice stating that such license
14 has expired and such license may only be renewed if the application,
15 renewal fee and late renewal fee are received by the secretary within the
16 30-day period following the date of expiration and that, if both fees are not
17 received within the 30-day period, such license shall be considered to have
18 lapsed for failure to renew and be reissued only after the applicant has
19 been reinstated under subsection ~~(d)~~ (e). Temporary licenses may be
20 renewed for one consecutive 12-month period upon payment of the
21 renewal fee and documentation of failure to complete requirements for
22 which the temporary license was originally issued.

23 (e) A licensee who fails to renew as provided in this act may be
24 reinstated upon payment of the renewal fee and the reinstatement fee and
25 upon submitting evidence of satisfactory completion of any applicable
26 continuing education requirements established by the secretary. The
27 secretary shall adopt rules and regulations establishing appropriate
28 continuing education requirements for the reinstatement of persons whose
29 licenses have lapsed for failure to renew.

30 (f) The secretary may grant a license to practice as a speech-language
31 pathology assistant to an applicant licensed to practice in another
32 jurisdiction if:

33 (1) The secretary receives from the issuing state or states
34 documentation that the licensee is currently in good standing without
35 violations or sanctions pending or in effect;

36 (2) the applicant meets the current educational and clinical experience
37 requirements of this act or hold a current, unrestricted license to practice as
38 a speech-language pathology assistant in another jurisdiction in the United
39 States;

40 (3) the applicant meets other qualifications as determined in
41 regulations adopted by the secretary; and

42 (4) the applicant pays an endorsement and application fee pursuant to
43 rules and regulations of the secretary.

1 (g) The secretary may issue a temporary speech-language pathology
2 assistant license for a period of 12 months pursuant to rules and
3 regulations of the secretary.

4 Sec. 3. (a) A speech-language pathology assistant shall satisfactorily
5 complete 12 hours of approved continuing education or 1.2 continuing
6 education units during each two-year licensing period.

7 (+) (a) Continuing education shall be reported on forms and in the
8 time and manner specified by the secretary.

9 (2) (b) A licensee shall maintain records of continuing education
10 hours or continuing education units earned for a period of four years, and
11 such records shall be made available to the secretary upon request.

12 (b) ~~The secretary may deny, revoke, suspend or limit the license-
13 provided for in this act for any of the reasons specified in K.S.A. 65-6508,
14 and amendments thereto.~~

15 Sec. 4. The secretary shall deny, revoke, suspend or limit the
16 license provided for in this act for any of the following reasons:

17 (a) Making a false statement on an application for a license or
18 any other document required by the secretary;

19 (b) engaging or attempting to engage, or representing oneself as
20 so entitled, to perform procedures not authorized in the license;

21 (c) demonstrating incompetence or making consistent negligent
22 errors in tests or procedures;

23 (d) engaging in dishonorable, unethical or unprofessional
24 conduct, as defined by rules and regulations;

25 (e) providing professional services while mentally incompetent,
26 under the influence of alcohol or narcotic or controlled substance that
27 is in excess of therapeutic amounts or without valid medical
28 indication;

29 (f) violating or aiding and abetting in a violation of any provisions
30 of this act or any of the rules or regulations adopted under this act; or

31 (g) having been convicted of a crime found by the secretary to
32 have a direct bearing on whether one should be entrusted to serve the
33 public in the capacity of a speech-language pathology assistant.

34 Sec. 4. 5. (a) A supervising speech-language pathologist shall:

35 (1) Be a speech-language pathologist who holds a current Kansas
36 license or a privilege to practice in the state of Kansas;

37 (2) have two years of full-time professional experience as a speech-
38 language pathologist following successful completion of the post graduate
39 professional experience;

40 (3) have earned at least two hours of professional development in the
41 area of supervision or clinical instruction following licensure;

42 (4) earn at least one hour of professional development in the area of
43 ethics every three years;

- 1 (5) institute a training program for each speech-language pathology
2 assistant that encompasses all of the procedures to be performed.
3 Documentation of such training in formal substance acceptable to the
4 secretary shall be retained in the speech-language pathology assistant's
5 file;
- 6 (6) inform the client or patient about the use of a speech-language
7 pathology assistant;
- 8 (7) provide and document appropriate supervision of the speech-
9 language pathology assistant to the secretary as outlined in the secretary's
10 rules and regulations adopted pursuant to this act;
- 11 (8) assume the legal and ethical responsibilities of the speech-
12 language pathology assistant's day-to-day conduct;
- 13 (9) maintain original documentation for three years;
- 14 (10) not supervise more than two full-time or three part-time speech-
15 language pathology assistants. The combined hours worked by three part-
16 time speech-language pathology assistants shall not exceed the total hours
17 worked by two full-time speech-language pathology assistants; and
- 18 (11) not have a pending or previous disciplinary action or allegation
19 by the state licensure board or only possess a provisional or temporary
20 speech-language pathology license.

21 (b) The amount and type of supervision required for a speech-
22 language pathology assistant shall be consistent with the:

- 23 (1) Speech-language pathology assistant's skills and experience;
- 24 (2) needs of the students, patients and clients;
- 25 (3) service setting;
- 26 (4) tasks assigned; and
- 27 (5) laws and rules and regulations that govern speech-language
28 pathology assistants.

29 (c) (1) Minimum ongoing supervision of a speech-language
30 pathology assistant shall include:

- 31 (A) Documentation of direct supervision provided by the speech-
32 language pathologist for each student, patient or client at least every 60
33 days;
- 34 (B) direct supervision of at least 10% of the speech-language
35 pathology assistant's total client contact time, which may be performed in
36 person or remotely through live video conferencing; and
- 37 (C) the supervising speech-language pathologist having discretion
38 over the amount of supervision necessary; and
- 39 (2) if there is a change in the supervising speech-language
40 pathologist, the speech-language pathology assistant shall be responsible
41 for notifying the secretary of the new supervisor within seven business
42 days following the change.

43 Sec.—5. 6. (a) The supervising speech-language pathologist shall

1 accept full and complete responsibility for all services and tasks performed
2 or omitted by the speech-language pathology assistant.

3 (b) If education, training, supervision and documentation of the
4 speech-language pathology assistant are consistent with the requirements
5 of this act, the supervising speech-language pathologist may designate and
6 direct the following tasks to such speech-language pathology assistant:

7 (1) Conduct speech-language or hearing screenings without
8 interpretation following specified screening protocols developed by the
9 supervising speech-language pathologist;

10 (2) provide direct treatment to patients or clients identified by the
11 supervising speech-language pathologist;

12 (3) follow documented treatment plans or protocols developed by the
13 supervising speech-language pathologist;

14 (4) document patient or client progress toward meeting established
15 objectives as stated in the treatment plan, assist with data collection for
16 patient or client responses and prepare therapy materials and activities;

17 (5) assist the supervising speech-language pathologist during
18 assessment of patients or clients;

19 (6) prepare charts, records and graphs and assist with other clerical
20 tasks as directed by the supervising speech-language pathologist;

21 (7) perform checks and maintenance of equipment on a regular basis
22 and verify calibration on audiometric equipment at least annually;

23 (8) assist the supervising speech-language pathologist in research
24 projects,
25 in-service training and public relations programs;

26 (9) share documentation and treatment notes with the supervising
27 speech-language pathologist, who shall review and co-sign such
28 documentation and treatment notes;

29 (10) provide caregiver coaching, such as modeling and teaching
30 communication strategies for carryover of skills, as directed by the
31 supervising speech-language pathologist;

32 (11) provide teletherapy services as directed by the supervising
33 speech-language pathologist;

34 (12) program augmentative and alternative communication devices;

35 (13) provide training and technical assistance to students, patients,
36 clients and families in the use of augmentative and alternative
37 communication devices;

38 (14) develop low-tech augmentative and alternative communication
39 materials for students, patients and clients;

40 (15) collaborate with team members when following HIPAA and
41 FERPA guidelines under the guidance of the supervising speech-language
42 pathologist; and

43 (16) clearly identify oneself as a speech-language pathology assistant

1 to students, clients, families and others; **and**

2 **(17) adjust communication practices and expectations as**
3 **necessary to effectively serve clients, patients and students.**

4 Sec.-6. 7. A speech-language pathology assistant shall not:

5 (a) Perform diagnostic tests of any kind, including formal or informal
6 evaluations, nor interpret test results;

7 (b) act as a decision-maker in individualized education program
8 meetings, special education eligibility meetings or any interdisciplinary
9 team meetings in which diagnostic information is interpreted or treatment
10 plans are developed without the presence of the supervising speech-
11 language pathologist or designated speech-language pathologist who meets
12 the qualifications for a supervising speech-language pathologist;

13 (c) independently provide diagnostic or assessment results to patients
14 or clients or such patient's or client's parents or guardians;

15 (d) write, develop or modify a patient's or client's treatment plan;

16 (e) provide services outside of a documented treatment plan that has
17 been prepared by the supervising speech-language pathologist;

18 (f) provide services for which the speech-language pathology
19 assistant has not received appropriate or adequate training;

20 (g) sign any formal documents without the signature of the
21 supervising speech-language pathologist;

22 (h) identify, recommend or discharge patients or clients for services;

23 (i) make referrals for additional services without consultation with the
24 supervising speech-language pathologist;

25 (j) provide any interpretative information that is contained in reports
26 written by any licensed speech-language pathologist;

27 (k) represent oneself to be a speech-language pathologist;

28 (l) make advertisements or public announcements of professional
29 services independent of the supervising speech-language pathologist;

30 (m) assist in feeding or swallowing therapy without direct supervision
31 from the supervising speech-language pathologist; or

32 (n) treat a person who is medically fragile as determined by the
33 supervising speech-language pathologist.

34 Sec.-7. 8. (a) On and after January 1, 2027, it shall be unlawful for
35 any person to represent oneself in any manner as a speech-language
36 pathology assistant if such person is not licensed under this act as a
37 speech-language pathology assistant or has a license that has been
38 suspended or revoked unless such person is exempted from the provisions
39 of this act.

40 (b) Violation of any provision of this act is a class C nonperson
41 misdemeanor, and each day in violation of this act shall be considered a
42 separate offense.

43 Sec.-8. 9. The secretary shall fix by rules and regulations the licensure

1 fee, temporary licensure fee, renewal fee, late renewal fee, reinstatement
2 fee and examination fee, if necessary, under this act. Such fees shall be
3 fixed in an amount to cover the costs of administering the provisions of
4 this act. No fee shall be more than \$200. The secretary shall remit all
5 moneys received from fees, charges or penalties under this act to the state
6 treasurer in accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 75-4215, and
7 amendments thereto. Upon receipt of each such remittance, the state
8 treasurer shall deposit the entire amount in the state treasury to the credit
9 of the health occupations credentialing fee fund created by K.S.A. 39-979,
10 and amendments thereto.

11 Sec. 9. 10. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
12 publication in the statute book.