

**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

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

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

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

(b) As used in this act:

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

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

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

(4) "Licensed speech-language pathology assistant" ~~or "SLPA"~~ means an individual who meets the minimum qualifications established by ~~the secretary that are less stringent than those established by this act as 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 ~~(1)(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.