

SESSION OF 2026

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2761

As Amended by House Committee on K-12
Education Budget

Brief*

HB 2761, as amended, would establish the Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Licensure Act (Act) and establish the powers, duties, and functions of the Secretary for Aging and Disability Services (Secretary) in carrying out the Act. The bill would provide for speech-language pathology assistant (SLPA) licensure, define the scope of practice, specify required qualifications, and require SLPAs to practice under a supervising speech-language pathologist (SLP).

The bill would require the Secretary to issue a SLPA license to an individual who meets the educational and training requirements of the Act and any other reasonable qualifications that may be adopted by the Secretary in rules and regulations. Such license would expire after two years.

Citation of the Act and Definitions (Section 1)

The bill would establish the title of the Act and provide definitions for terms including, but not limited to, “Certified speech-language pathology assistant,” “direct supervision,” “licensed speech-language pathology assistant,” “speech para,” and “supervising speech-language pathologist.”

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <https://klrd.gov/>

***Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Requirements
(Sections 2, 3, 6, and 7)***

Educational and Training Requirements (Section 2)

The Act would require an individual seeking an SLPA license to have:

- Completed a certificate, technical, associate, or baccalaureate program including:
 - A bachelor's degree in communication sciences and disorders from an accredited institution;
 - A bachelor's degree in another field and 24 hours of core coursework in communication sciences and disorders; or
 - A SLPA program from a regionally accredited institution that offers an associate's degree, technical training program, or a certificate program; and
- Completed a supervised clinical experience that consists of 100 clock hours of supervised clinical fieldwork with direct client or patient contact or clinical practicum. [*Note: Supervision may occur as either an academic practicum or on the job under a supervising SLP.*]

Continuing Education Requirements (Section 3)

The Act would also require that individuals seeking to renew an SLPA license would need to show proof of having completed the required 12 hours of approved continuing education or 1.2 continuing education units during each two-year licensing period. The bill would require a licensee's continuing education to be reported on forms and in the time and manner specified by the Secretary and retained by the licensee for a four-year period. The Act would require a

licensee to provide such records to the Secretary upon request.

Scope of Practice (Section 6)

The Act would establish the scope of practice for an SLPA to be the following activities as designated and directed by a supervising SLP:

- Conduct speech-language or hearing screenings without interpretation following specified screening protocols developed by the supervising SLP;
- Provide direct treatment to patients or clients who are identified by the supervising SLP;
- Follow documented treatment plans or protocols developed by the supervising SLP;
- Document patient or client progress toward meeting established objectives as stated in the treatment plan, assist with data collection for patient or clients responses, and prepare therapy materials and activities;
- Assist the supervising SLP during assessment of patients or clients;
- Prepare charts, records, and graphs and assist with other clerical tasks as directed by the supervising SLP;
- Perform checks and maintenance of equipment on a regular basis and verify calibration on audiometric equipment at least annually;
- Assist the supervising SLP in research projects, in-service training, and public relations programs;

- Share documentation and treatment notes with the supervising SLP, who would be required to review and co-sign such documentation and treatment notes;
- Provide caregiver coaching as directed by the supervising SLP;
- Provide teletherapy services as directed by the supervising SLP;
- Program augmentative and alternative communication devices;
- Provide training and technical assistance to students, patients, clients, and families in the use of augmentative and alternative communication devices;
- Develop low-tech augmentative and alternative communication materials for students, patients, and clients;
- Collaborate with team members under the guidance of the supervising SLP and all applicable guidelines of the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act;
- Clearly identify oneself as an SLPA to students, clients, families, and others; and
- Adjust communication practices and expectations as necessary to effectively serve clients, patients, and students.

*Speech-Language Pathology Assistants Prohibited Activities
(Section 7)*

The Act would expressly prohibit an SLPA from carrying out certain activities or services:

- Perform diagnostic tests of any kind, including formal or informal evaluations, or interpret test results;
- Act as a decision-maker in individualized education program meetings, special education eligibility meetings, or any interdisciplinary team meetings in which diagnostic information is interpreted or treatment plans are developed without the presence of a supervising SLP or an SLP qualified to provide supervision;
- Independently provide diagnostic or assessment results to patients, clients, or their parents or guardians;
- Write, develop, or modify a patient's or client's treatment plan;
- Provide services outside of a documented treatment plan prepared by the supervising SLP;
- Provide services for which the SLPA has not received appropriate or adequate training;
- Sign any formal documents without the signature of the supervising SLP;
- Identify, recommend, or discharge patients or clients for services;
- Make referrals for additional services without consultation with the supervising SLP;

- Provide any interpretative information that is contained in reports written by any licensed SLP;
- Represent oneself as an SLP;
- Make advertisements or public announcements of professional services independent of the supervising SLP;
- Assist in feeding or swallowing therapy without direct supervision from the supervising SLP; or
- Treat a person who is medically fragile as determined by the supervising SLP.

Supervising Speech-Language Pathologist (Section 5)

The Act would require a supervising SLP to accept full and complete responsibility for all services and tasks performed or omitted by a SLPA under their supervision.

Supervising Speech-Language Pathologist Qualifications

The Act would require an SLP wishing to supervise an SLPA or multiple SLPAs to meet the following qualifications:

- Hold a current Kansas SLP license or a privilege to practice in the state;
- Have two years of full-time experience as an SLP following the successful completion of the post-graduate profession experience;
- Have earned at least two hours of professional development in the area of supervision or clinical instruction following licensure; and
- Earn at least one hour of professional development in the area of ethics every three years.

The Act would restrict a supervising SLP to supervising either two full-time SLPAs or three part-time SLPAs. If an SLP is supervising three part-time SLPAs, the aggregate hours worked by the SLPAs could not exceed those worked by two full-time SLPAs.

The Act would also require supervising SLPs to take certain actions, including:

- Instituting a training program for each SLPA that encompasses all of the procedures to be performed and retain documentation in the SLPA's file in a form acceptable to the Secretary;
- Informing the client or patient about the use of a SLPA;
- Providing and documenting appropriate supervision of the SLPA to the Secretary as outlined in rules and regulations;
- Assuming the legal and ethical responsibilities of the SPLA's day-to-day conduct;
- Maintaining original documentation for three years; and
- Having no pending or previous disciplinary action or allegations or possess only a provisional or temporary license.

Supervision of Speech-Language Pathology Assistants

The Act would establish minimum supervision requirements of SLPAs by a supervising SLP:

- Documentation of direct supervision provided by the SLP for each student, patient, or client at least every 60 days;

- Provide direct supervision of at least 10.0 percent of an SLPA's total client contact time, which may be performed either in person or through live video conferencing; and
- Any additional amount of supervision determined at the discretion of the supervising SLP consistent with the:
 - SLPA's skills and experience;
 - Needs of the students, patients, and clients;
 - Service setting;
 - Tasks assigned; and
 - Laws and rules and regulations that govern SLPAs.

The Act would require an SLPA to notify the Secretary within seven business days following any change in a SLPA's supervising SLP.

Speech-Language Pathology Assistant License (Sections 2, 4, and 9)

Issuance and Renewal Applications (Section 2)

The Act would require applicants seeking issuance or renewal of an SLPA license to submit an application to the Secretary, in the manner and form prescribed and furnished by the Secretary, and pay all required fees. The Act would also authorize the Secretary to issue licenses for periods of less than two years for purposes of administratively adjusting renewals and, in such case, a licensee would be charged a prorated renewal fee.

Licensees who fail to renew their licenses would be authorized to seek reinstatement of the license by:

- Paying the renewal fee;

- Paying the reinstatement fee; and
- Submitting evidence of satisfactory completion of any applicable continuing education requirements, as established by the Secretary.

Notification of License Expiration (Section 2)

The Act would require the Secretary to electronically notify the licensee of their license expiration date at least 30 days before the expiration date through the email address on file with the Secretary. Should the licensee not submit a renewal application and pay the appropriate fee prior to the expiration of their license, the Act would also require the Secretary to provide a second notice stating that the license has expired and that it may be renewed only if the renewal application, renewal fee, and late renewal fee are received within 30 days of the license expiring.

Denial, Revocation, Suspension, or Limitation on License (Section 4)

The Act would require the Secretary to deny, revoke, suspend, or limit a licensee's license if the licensee:

- Makes a false statement on an application for a license or any other document required by the Secretary;
- Engages, attempt to engage, or represents oneself as being allowed to perform procedures not authorized by the license;
- Demonstrates incompetence or makes consistent negligent errors in tests or procedures;
- Engages in dishonorable, unethical, or unprofessional conduct, as defined in rules and regulations;

- Provides professional services while:
 - Mentally incompetent; or
 - Under the influence of alcohol, narcotics, or controlled substances that are in excess of therapeutic amounts or without valid medical indications;
- Violates any provisions of the Act or any rules and regulations adopted under the Act;
- Aids and abets the violation of any provisions of the Act or any rules and regulations adopted under the Act; or
- Has been convicted of a crime found by the Secretary to have a direct bearing on whether one should be entrusted to serve the public in the capacity of an SLPA.

Reciprocity Requirements (Section 2)

The Act would permit the Secretary to grant a SLPA license to an applicant who is licensed to practice in another state if:

- The Secretary receives documentation from the issuing state or states that the licensee is currently in good standing without violations or sanctions, pending or in effect;
- The applicant meets the current educational and clinical experience requirements established in the Act or holds a current, unrestricted license to practice as an SLPA in another jurisdiction in the United States;
- The applicant meets other qualifications as determined in rules and regulations adopted by the Secretary; and

- The applicant pays an endorsement and application fee.

Temporary License (Section 2)

The Act would authorize the Secretary to issue a temporary SLPA license for a period of 12 months as established in rules and regulations by the Secretary.

The bill would allow a temporary license to be renewed for 1 consecutive 12-month period upon payment of the fee and documentation of the applicant's failure to complete the requirements for which the temporary license was originally issued.

Licensure Fees (Section 9)

The Act would require the Secretary, if necessary, to set fees for licensure, temporary licensure, renewal, late renewal, reinstatement, and examination fees in an amount to cover the costs of administering the Act. The bill would prohibit any such fee from being more than \$200. All fees would be remitted to the State Treasury to be credited to the Health Occupations Credentialing Fee Fund.

Violations of the Act (Section 8)

The Act would, on and after January 1, 2027, make it unlawful for any person to represent oneself in any manner as an SLPA if the person is not licensed under the Act or has a license that has been suspended or revoked, unless such person is exempt from the provisions of the Act.

The Act would also state that any violation of its provisions would be a class C nonperson misdemeanor with each day an individual is in violation of the Act being considered a separate offense.

Rules and Regulations

The Act would require the Secretary to adopt rules and regulations to:

- Establish appropriate continuing education requirements for licensees seeking reinstatement of a lapsed license;
- Define dishonorable, unethical, or unprofessional conduct for purposes of denial, revocation, suspension, or limitation of a SLPA license;
- Establish documentation requirements for appropriate supervision of an SLPA by a supervising SLP; and
- Fix licensure, temporary licensure, renewal, late renewal, reinstatement, and examination fees as deemed necessary by the Secretary.

The Act would also authorize the Secretary to adopt rules and regulations regarding:

- Other reasonable qualifications of an applicant to receive a SLPA license; and
- The creation of a 12-month Temporary Speech-Language Pathology Assistant License.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on K-12 Budget at the request of Representative Goetz.

House Committee on K-12 Budget

In the House Committee hearing on February 12, 2026, **proponent** testimony was provided by a representative of the

Kansas Speech-Language-Hearing Association (KSLHA) and a private citizen self-identified as a practicing SLP and current president of KSLHA. The proponents generally stated that the bill would benefit the State by helping to address provider shortages in underserved areas of the state and schools by creating a new group of licensed professionals who can administer services under the supervision of an SLP.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by representatives of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and USD 259 (Wichita Public Schools), and by six private citizens.

No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee amended the bill to:

- Add the adjustment of communication practices and expectations as necessary to effectively serve clients, patients, and students to the allowable activities of an SLPA;
- Include specific conditions under which the Secretary could deny, revoke, suspend, or limit a licensee's SLPA license; and
- Make various technical amendments.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note provided by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) estimates enactment of the bill would increase expenditures by \$178,928, including \$137,196 from the State General Fund (SGF), in FY 2027 and \$171,101, including \$128,326 SGF, in FY 2028. It notes that costs could be covered by fee fund revenue instead of SGF once rules and regulations are promulgated.

KDADS states the estimated costs would be for the addition of 2.0 FTE positions to create and maintain the SLPA licensure program. The duties of those positions would include the creation, review, and approval of forms for the program and also responsibility for sending renewal reminders and secondary reminders, processing payments, and performing other administrative tasks for the program. The agency also anticipates the expenditure of \$12,000 in one-time fees to add the licensure to the database.

The Kansas Department of Education states enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect on the agency.

Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2027 Governor's Budget Report*.

Health care; licensure; speech-language pathology; Secretary for Aging and Disability Services; Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Licensure Act