

**Substitute HOUSE BILL No. 2659**

By Committee on Health and Human Services

2-17

1 AN ACT relating to speech-language pathologists and audiologists;  
2 amending K.S.A. 65-6501, 65-6502 and 65-6503 and repealing the  
3 existing sections.

4  
5 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

6 Section 1. K.S.A. 65-6501 is hereby amended to read as follows: 65-  
7 6501. As used in this act, the following words and phrases shall have the  
8 meanings respectively ascribed to them in this section:

9 (a) "Secretary" means the secretary of ~~health and environment~~ *aging*.

10 (b) "Speech-language pathology" means the application of principles,  
11 methods and procedures related to the development and disorders of  
12 human communication. Disorders include any and all conditions, whether  
13 of organic or nonorganic origin, that impede the normal process of human  
14 communication including disorders and related disorders of speech,  
15 articulation, fluency, voice, verbal and written language, auditory  
16 comprehension, cognition/communication, and oral pharyngeal or  
17 laryngeal sensorimotor competencies, or both. Speech-language pathology  
18 does not mean diagnosis or treatment of medical conditions as defined by  
19 K.S.A. 65-2869, and amendments thereto.

20 (c) "Practice of speech-language pathology" means:

21 (1) Rendering or offering to render to individuals or groups of  
22 individuals who have or are suspected of having disorders of  
23 communication, any service in speech-language pathology including  
24 prevention, identification, evaluation, consultation, habilitation and  
25 rehabilitation;

26 (2) determining the need for personal augmentative communication  
27 systems, recommending such systems and providing training in utilization  
28 of such systems; and

29 (3) planning, directing, conducting or supervising such services.

30 (d) "Speech-language pathologist" means a person who engages in  
31 the practice of speech-language pathology and who meets the  
32 qualifications set forth in this act.

33 (e) "Audiology" means the application of principles, methods and  
34 procedures related to hearing and the disorders of hearing and to related  
35 language and speech disorders. Disorders include any and all conditions,  
36 whether of organic or nonorganic origin, peripheral or central, that impede

1 the normal process of human communication including, but not limited to,  
2 disorders of auditory sensitivity, acuity, function or processing. Audiology  
3 does not mean diagnosis or treatment of medical conditions as defined by  
4 K.S.A. 65-2869, and amendments thereto.

5 (f) "Practice of audiology" means:

6 (1) Rendering or offering to render to individuals or groups of  
7 individuals who have or are suspected of having disorders of hearing, any  
8 service in audiology, including prevention, identification, evaluation,  
9 consultation and habilitation or rehabilitation (other than hearing aid or  
10 other assistive listening device dispensing);

11 (2) participating in hearing conservation;

12 (3) providing auditory training and speech reading;

13 (4) conducting tests of vestibular function;

14 (5) evaluating tinnitus; and

15 (6) planning, directing, conducting or supervising services.

16 (g) "Audiologist" means any person who engages in the practice of  
17 audiology and who meets the qualifications set forth in this act.

18 (h) "Speech-language pathology assistant" means an individual who  
19 meets minimum qualifications established by the secretary which are less  
20 than those established by this act as necessary for licensing as a speech-  
21 language pathologist; does not act independently; and works under the  
22 direction and supervision of a speech-language pathologist licensed under  
23 this act.

24 (i) "Audiology assistant" means an individual who meets minimum  
25 qualifications established by the secretary, which are less than those  
26 established by this act as necessary for licensing as an audiologist; does  
27 not act independently; and works under the direction and supervision of an  
28 audiologist licensed under this act.

29 (j) "Sponsor" means entities approved by the secretary of ~~health and~~  
30 ~~environment~~ **aging** to provide continuing education programs or courses  
31 on an ongoing basis under this act and in accordance with any rules and  
32 regulations promulgated by the secretary in accordance with this act.

33 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 65-6502 is hereby amended to read as follows: 65-  
34 6502. (a) There is hereby established a speech-language pathology and  
35 audiology board. Such board shall be advisory to the secretary of ~~health~~  
36 ~~and environment~~ in all matters concerning standards, rules and regulations  
37 and all matters relating to this act.

38 (b) The board shall be composed of five persons appointed by the  
39 secretary who have been residents of this state for at least two years. Two  
40 members shall be licensed, or initially eligible for licensure, as speech-  
41 language pathologists; one member shall be licensed, or initially eligible  
42 for licensure, as an audiologist; one member shall be a person licensed to  
43 practice medicine and surgery; and one member shall be a member of the

1 general public who is not a health care provider. The secretary may make  
2 appointments from a list submitted by professional organizations  
3 representing speech pathologists and audiologists.

4 (c) Members of the board attending meetings of such board or  
5 attending a subcommittee meeting thereof authorized by such board shall  
6 be paid amounts provided in subsection (e) of K.S.A. 75-3223, and  
7 amendments thereto.

8 (d) Board members shall be appointed for a term of two years and  
9 until their successors are appointed and qualified, except that of the initial  
10 appointments, which shall be made within 60 days after the effective date  
11 of this act, two members first appointed, as specified by the secretary, shall  
12 serve on the board for terms of one year and thereafter, upon expiration of  
13 such one-year terms, successors shall be appointed in the same manner as  
14 the original appointments. The chairperson of the board shall be elected  
15 annually from among the members of the board. Whenever a vacancy  
16 occurs on the board by reason other than the expiration of a term of office,  
17 the secretary shall appoint a successor of like qualifications for the  
18 remainder of the unexpired term. No person shall be appointed to serve  
19 more than ~~two~~ **three** successive two-year terms.

20 (e) Appointments to fill vacancies shall be made in the same manner  
21 as original appointments for the unexpired portion of the term. The  
22 secretary may terminate the appointment of any member for cause which  
23 in the opinion of the secretary reasonably justifies such termination.

24 Sec. 3. K.S.A. 65-6503 is hereby amended to read as follows: 65-  
25 6503. (a) The secretary shall:

26 ~~(a)~~(1) Issue to each person who has met the education and training  
27 requirements listed in K.S.A. 65-6505, and amendments thereto and such  
28 other reasonable qualifications as may be established by rules and  
29 regulations promulgated by the secretary, the appropriate license as a  
30 speech-language pathologist or audiologist;

31 ~~(b)~~(2) establish by rules and regulations the methods and procedures  
32 for examination of candidates for licensure;

33 ~~(c)~~(3) appoint employees necessary to administer this act and fix their  
34 compensation within the limits of appropriations made for that purpose;

35 ~~(d)~~(4) keep a record of the board's proceedings and a register of all  
36 applicants for and recipients of licenses; and

37 ~~(e)~~(5) make all such reasonable rules and regulations as deemed  
38 necessary to carry out and enforce the provisions of this act.

39 (b) *All rules and regulations, orders and directives of the secretary of*  
40 *health and environment concerning speech-language pathologists and*  
41 *audiologists in existence on the effective date of this act shall continue to*  
42 *be effective and shall be deemed to be duly adopted rules and regulations,*  
43 *orders and directives of the secretary of aging until revised, amended,*

1 *revoked or nullified pursuant to law.*

2 *(c) All records of the department of health and environment*  
3 *concerning speech-language pathologists and audiologists in existence on*  
4 *the effective date of this act are hereby transferred to the secretary of*  
5 *aging.*

6 *(d) Whenever a reference or designation is made to the department of*  
7 *health and environment concerning speech-language pathologists or*  
8 *audiologists by a contract or other document, such reference or*  
9 *designation shall be deemed to apply to the secretary of aging.*

10 Sec. 4. K.S.A. 65-6501, 65-6502 and 65-6503 are hereby repealed.

11 Sec. 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its  
12 publication in the statute book.

13