

Health Occupations Program Technical Bill

HF3708 / SF3427

Description

Amend the occupational regulations for hearing instrument dispensers, occupational therapy and speech-hearing practitioners to improve the effectiveness of the regulations and the efficiency of regulatory activity.

Background

The Health Occupations Program (HOP) has regulated hearing instrument dispensers since 1988, speech language pathologists and audiologists since 1991 and occupational therapy practitioners since 1996. As the HOP conducts regulatory activities affecting these occupations, it identifies ways to improve regulatory effectiveness. This proposal contains amendments that are technical or housekeeping in nature and have no fiscal impact.

Each occupation has an advisory council comprised of consumers and practitioners. Members of these councils have reviewed and support the amendments.

Proposal

For all three occupations, one set of amendments would add name changes in the requirement to notify the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) of a change in address or employment. A second set of amendments would clarify the language concerning penalty fees applicable to late continuing education (CE) reports by defining when CE coursework is "missing."

One amendment affects only the speech-hearing occupational groups: hearing instrument dispensers and audiologists. The amendment would clarify that an audiogram must include the dispenser or

audiologist's name, signature, credential number and date.

For speech language pathologists and audiologists alone, the following changes are proposed:

- Clarify language concerning documentation required for the application for clinical fellowship and doctoral externship licensing; and
- Specify conditions for extending temporary licenses.

For occupational therapists alone, the following changes are proposed:

- Clarify the time periods in statute for obtaining continuing education to renew after a lapse in the license;
- Clarify the language requiring commissioner approval prior to using Physical Agent Modalities in occupational therapy practice; and
- Delete business related topics from the two-hour restriction on CE hours so that more such hours may be taken if related to a practitioner's current professional role.

For hearing instrument dispensers alone, the following change is proposed:

- Make dates for obtaining CE hours coterminous with effective and expiration dates of the certificate and recognize audiology associations as accepted CE providers for hearing instrument dispensers.



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