



Legislative Background Brief

for the
Economic Affairs Interim Committee

June 2013

Board of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists

Prepared by Pat Murdo, Legislative Research Analyst, with help from the Business Standards Division

Board = 5 members (term expiration in parentheses)

Speech-Language Pathologists = 2 Cheri Fjare, Big Timber (12/31/2013) Alida Wright, Columbia Falls (12/31/2013)	Audiologists = 2 Lynn Harris, Missoula (12/31/2014) Tina Hoagland, Billings (12/31/2014)
Public member/Consumer = 1 Beverly Stiller, Lame Deer (12/31/2013)	

Number of Licensees	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY2012
- Total	586	625	672	464

Licensing Fees (since 2006) Fees same for Speech-Language Pathologists & Audiologists

Application fee	\$ 50	Inactive license fee	\$ 50
Original license fee	\$ 50	Combined application/temporary license fee ..	\$50
Annual renewal fee.....	\$100	Registration as speech-language pathologist aide/assistant or audiologist aide/assistant	\$50

Revenues FY2009-FY2012 and Expenditures for FY 2009-2012

	Revenues		Expenditures	
	Licensing	Other	Personal Services	Operating
FY 2009	\$50,778		\$42,514	
FY 2010	\$53,343		\$47,236	
FY 2011	\$52,960		\$46,799	
FY 2012	\$55,580		\$64,127	
FY 2015 biennium*	--		\$124,050	

*Appropriation Authority In House Bill 2

Expenditures, FY 2012	Direct	Indirect			
		Admin	Div. IT/Bureau	Compliance	Bureau
Personal Services, incl. per diem	\$32,611	\$2,699	\$2,695	\$222	\$1,642

Operating Expenses		
Consulting, Printing, IT, Other	\$4,259	\$1,384
Supplies, incl. Computer	\$1,569	\$413
Postage, mailing, IT network, voice srv	\$686	\$536
Travel/Per Diem for Board Members	\$3,424	
Rent and other expenses*	\$4,400	\$4,599
Legal and hearings	\$2,988	
Total (may be affected by rounding)	\$49,937	\$14,190

*Includes rent of \$1,656, computer and office equipment repair of \$81, dues, education & training, and fee collection expense of \$2,662 for direct expenses and pro-rated meeting rooms, maintenance contracts of \$8, DLI OIT expense of \$1,588 and indirect agency of \$3,003 for indirect expenses.

Number of Complaints

FY 09	0
FY 10	1
FY 11	0
FY 12	0

Disciplinary Action (may be from other years)

Investigations	1
Dismissed	1, Investigations
Investigations	1

Scope of Practice

The practice of *audiology* is defined in 37-15-102, MCA, as "nonmedical diagnosis, assessment, and treatment services relating to auditory and vestibular disorders as provided by board rule and includes the selling, dispensing, and fitting of hearing aids". The scope of practice is further defined in 24.222.525 to include otoscopic examination and external ear canal management for removal of cerumen for evaluation and ear impressions among other activities.

The practice of *speech-language pathology* is defined in 37-15-102, MCA, as "nonmedical diagnosis, assessment, and treatment services relating to speech-language pathology as provided by board rule". The scope of practice is further defined in 24.222.520 to include screening, identification, intervention, and the provision of followup services for speech or language disorders, among other specifications.

2013 Legislation Impacting Board or Profession

- HB 133, which did not have a Senate vote on a conference committee amendment and thus died, would have revised the Board of Hearing Aid Dispensers to include as optional an audiologist member.
- SB 230 authorized use of telepractice for licensees of the Board of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists. Telepractice is to be equivalent in quality to in-person service.

Summary of Responses from Survey as made through June 3, 2013:

of Responses from Board of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists licensees -- 15
Comments summarized separately.