

By Ms. Menard, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 401) of Joan M. Menard and Frederick E. Berry for legislation relative to the certification of speech language pathology assistants and audiology assistants. Government Regulations.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and One.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE CERTIFICATION OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANTS AND AUDIOLOGY ASSISTANTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 86 of chapter 13 of the General Laws, as
2 appearing in the 1998 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 striking in line 5, the words “as speech-language pathologists or
4 audiologists” and inserting in place thereof the following
5 words:— “as speech-language pathology assistants, audiologists
6 or audiology assistants.”

1 SECTION 2. Section 138 of chapter 112 of the General Laws,
2 as appearing in the 1998 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 inserting after the second paragraph the following paragraph:—
4 “Audiology assistant”, any person who is duly certified in
5 accordance with Section 139 who assists in the practice of audi-
6 ology and who works under the supervision and direction of a
7 duly licensed audiologist.

1 SECTION 3. Section 138 of chapter 112 of the General Laws,
2 as appearing in the 1998 Official Edition is hereby amended by
3 inserting after the fifth paragraph the following paragraph:—
4 “Speech-language pathology assistant”, any person who is duly
5 certified in accordance with Section 139 who assists in the prac-
6 tice of speech-language pathology and who works under the

7 supervision and direction of a duly licensed speech-language
8 pathologist.

1 SECTION 4. Section 139 of chapter 112 of the General Laws,
2 as appearing in the 1998 Official Edition, is hereby amended in
3 paragraph (1) by inserting after the first sentence the following
4 sentence:— Shall evaluate the qualifications of applicants, grant
5 certificates to those persons who are determined to be qualified as
6 speech-language pathology assistants or audiology assistants.

1 SECTION 5. Section 139 of chapter 112 of the General Laws,
2 as appearing in the 1998 Official Edition, is hereby amended in
3 paragraph (2) by inserting after the word “re-examined” the
4 following words:— and shall require applicants for license
5 renewal or certificate renewal.

1 SECTION 6. Section 139 of chapter 112 of the General Laws,
2 as appearing in the 1998 Official Edition, is hereby amended in
3 paragraph (3) by striking, in the second sentence the words “or
4 audiologist if such person:” and inserting in place thereof the
5 words:— speech language pathology assistant, audiologist or
6 audiology assistant if such person:.

1 SECTION 7. Section 139 of chapter 112 of the General Laws,
2 as appearing in the 1998 Official Edition, is hereby amended in
3 paragraph (3), subparagraph (a) by inserting after the word
4 “license” the words:— or certificate.

1 SECTION 8. Section 139 of chapter 112 of the General Laws,
2 as appearing in the 1998 Official Edition, is hereby amended in
3 paragraph (3) by striking subparagraph (d) and inserting in place
4 thereof the following subparagraph:—

5 (d) has practiced speech- language pathology or audiology
6 while the ability to practice is impaired by alcohol or drugs; pro-
7 vided, however, that any person whose license or certificate is
8 revoked may apply for relicensure or recertification after one year
9 from the date of revocation and the board may in its discretion
10 grant such relicensure or recertification upon such terms and con-
11 ditions as the board may deem appropriate.

1 SECTION 9. Section 139 of chapter 112 of the General Laws,
2 as appearing in the 1998 Official Edition, is hereby amended in
3 paragraph (4) by inserting after the word “audiology” the
4 following words:— or who are certified as speech-language
5 pathology assistants or audiology assistants.

1 SECTION 10. Section 140 of chapter 112 of the General Laws,
2 as appearing in the 1998 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 inserting after the word “audiologist” the following words:— or
4 certified as a speech-language pathology assistant or audiology
5 assistant.

1 SECTION 11. Section 141 of chapter 112 of the General Laws,
2 as appearing in the 1998 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 inserting after the word “audiologist” in line 2 the following new
4 words:— or certify as a speech-language pathology assistant or
5 audiology assistant.

1 SECTION 12. Section 142 of chapter 112 of the General Laws,
2 as appearing in the 1998 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 inserting after the word “audiologist” in line 2 the following new
4 words:— or certify as a speech-language pathology assistant or
5 audiology assistant.

1 SECTION 13. Section 142 of chapter 112 of the General Laws,
2 as appearing in the 1998 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 striking the second sentence and inserting in place thereof the
4 following new sentence:— It shall issue to each person so
5 licensed or certified a certificate of licensure or certificate of cer-
6 tification which shall be conclusive evidence of the right of such
7 person to practice.

1 SECTION 14. Section 143 of chapter 112 of the General Laws,
2 as appearing in the 1998 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 striking the sentence and inserting in place thereof the following
4 new sentence:— Every licensed speech-language pathologist or
5 audiologist or certified speech-language pathology assistant or
6 audiology assistant shall apply to the board every two years on
7 dates determined by the board for renewal of his license or certifi-

8 cate and shall pay to the board a fee which shall be set by the Sec-
9 retary of Administration and Finance.

1 SECTION 15. Chapter 112 of the General Laws, as appearing
2 in the 1998 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after
3 Section 44 the following new section:—

4 Section 44A. To be eligible for certification by the board as a
5 speech-language pathology assistant or audiology assistant, an
6 applicant shall:

7 (1) be of good moral character;

8 (2) possess at a minimum an associates degree in a speech-lan-
9 guage pathology or audiology training program approved by a
10 national certifying body for speech-language pathology or audi-
11 ology, a bachelors degree from a college with a speech-language
12 pathology assistant or audiology assistant certificate program or
13 an equivalent course of study with a major emphasis in the area of
14 speech-language pathology or audiology.

15 (3) hold a current and valid certificate of clinical competence as
16 a speech-language pathology assistant audiology assistant from
17 the national certifying body for speech-language pathology and
18 audiology. Individuals who have worked as speech-language
19 pathlogy assistants or audiology assistants must make applica-
20 tion to the board for certification by waiver within two years of
21 the effective date of this provision. The terms and conditions of
22 any such waivers shall be determined by the board.