



State of Nevada

## Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology & Hearing Aid Dispensing Board

6170 Mae Anne Avenue, Suite 1, Reno, NV 89523

(775) 787-3421 / Fax (775) 746-4105

[www.nvspeechhearing.org](http://www.nvspeechhearing.org) Email [board@nvspeechhearing.org](mailto:board@nvspeechhearing.org)

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## Notice of Workshop to Solicit Comments on Proposed Regulation LCB File No. R095-19

The State of Nevada Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensing Board is proposing the addition, amendment and/or repeal of regulations pertaining to Chapter 637B of the Nevada Administrative Code.

A Public Workshop to solicit comments from interested persons has been set as follows:

**Wednesday, January 22, 2020 ~ 4:30pm**

### Location:

Board Administrative Office  
6170 Mae Anne Avenue, Suite 1, Reno, Nevada 89523

### Teleconference Access

**Video:** <https://zoom.us/j/5319419132>

**Audio:** 1-877-810-9415 **Audio Access Code:** 8997531

*Participants may join using audio only or using both audio AND video. Video only will not include sound.*

The purpose of the workshop is to solicit comments from interested persons on the proposed regulation LCB File No. R095-19. The proposed regulations do the following:

- **Sec. 2.** Clarifies existing regulation language regarding the exemption from licensure by defining “practice within scope of credential” issued by the Department of Education;
- **Sec. 3.** Establishes parameters in existing regulation language on issuing citations to cease and desist and assessing administrative fines for violation of law for practicing without a valid license or endorsement, as well as a waiver of an administrative fine for “good cause”;
- **Sec. 4.** Grants the Board authority to consider requiring applicants take and pass a Jurisprudence Examination as a condition for initial license or reinstatement of an expired license;
- **Sec. 5.** Allows an individual who wishes to reinstate and Apprentice license credit for up to two (2) years of in-service training completed during the initial license period;
- **Sec. 6.** Clarifies existing regulation language to require that a sponsor and an apprentice shall have the same employer.

A copy of the proposed regulations may be obtained at the workshop or by contacting the Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensing Board, 6170 Mae Anne Avenue, Suite 1, Reno, Nevada 89523. Copies of the proposed regulations are available for viewing or printing on the Board’s website [www.nvspeechhearing.org](http://www.nvspeechhearing.org). Written comments will be accepted in hard copy or by email to [board@nvspeechhearing.org](mailto:board@nvspeechhearing.org).

All licensees and interested parties are encouraged to participate in the regulatory review process.

We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who are disabled and wish to attend the meeting. If special arrangements are necessary, please notify Jennifer R. Pierce, Executive Director at (775) 787-3421 within 72 hours of the meeting date and time.

This **Notice of Workshop to Solicit Comments on Proposed Regulation** has been sent to all licensed Speech-Language Pathologists, Audiologists, Hearing Aid Specialists and persons on the agency's mailing list for administrative regulations.

This **Notice of Workshop to Solicit Comments on Proposed Regulations** has been posted online at the following sites:

**Nevada Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensing Board Website**  
[www.nvspeechhearing.org](http://www.nvspeechhearing.org)

**Nevada Administrative Website**  
[www.nv.gov](http://www.nv.gov)

**Nevada Legislature Website**  
[www.leg.state.nv.us](http://www.leg.state.nv.us)

This **Notice of Workshop to Solicit Comments on Proposed Regulations** has been posted at the following physical locations:

**State of Nevada, Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology & Hearing Aid Specialist Board**  
6170 Mae Anne Ave., Suite 1, Reno, Nevada 89523

**Office of the Attorney General**  
100 North Carson Street, Carson City, NV 89701

**Office of the Attorney General**  
5420 Kietzke Lane, Ste 202, Reno, Nevada 89511

**Office of the Attorney General**  
Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 E. Washington Ave #3900, Las Vegas, NV 89101

**Storey County Treasurer & Clerks Office**  
Drawer D, Virginia City, NV 89440

**All Nevada County Public Libraries**

**Dated:** January 6, 2020

**PROPOSED REGULATION OF THE  
SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY, AUDIOLOGY AND  
HEARING AID DISPENSING BOARD**

**LCB File No. R095-19**

November 20, 2019

EXPLANATION – Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets [omitted material] is material to be omitted.

AUTHORITY: §1 and 2, NRS 637B.080 and 637B.132; §3, NRS 637B.132 and 637B.290; §4, NRS 637B.132, 637B.160, 637B.191 and 637B.194; §5 and 6, NRS 637B.132, 637B.194 and 637B.235.

A REGULATION relating to professions; defining the authorized scope of practice for audiologists and speech-language pathologists holding certain credentials; establishing provisions governing penalties for the unlicensed practice of audiology, speech-pathology and fitting and dispensing hearing aids; authorizing the Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensing Board to require applicants to submit proof of passing an examination regarding certain laws relevant to the practice area of an applicant; revising provisions governing the in-service training of apprentices in the practice of fitting and dispensing hearing aids; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

Existing law exempts a person who holds a credential issued by the Department of Education and who engages in the practice of audiology or speech-language pathology within the scope of that credential from the provisions of chapter 637B of NRS which govern the practice of audiology and speech-language pathology in this State. (NRS 637B.080) **Section 2** of this regulation establishes the circumstances under which a person qualifies for this exemption.

Existing law authorizes the Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensing Board to impose certain penalties against a person who engages in the practice of audiology, speech-language pathology or fitting and dispensing hearing aids without a license, including the issuance of an order to cease and desist, the issuance of a citation and the imposition of an administrative fine. (NRS 637B.290) **Section 3** of this regulation provides that the Board will issue an order to cease and desist and a citation to a person who has engaged in

the practice of audiology, speech-language pathology or fitting and dispensing hearing aids without the applicable license. **Section 3** also establishes requirements for the imposition of administrative fines for unauthorized practice and authorizes the Board, under certain circumstances, to waive an administrative fine that has been imposed.

Existing law requires an applicant for a license to engage in the practice of audiology, speech-language pathology or fitting and dispensing hearing aids to pass an examination prescribed by the Board by regulation. (NRS 637B.160, 637B.191 and 637B.194) **Section 4** of this regulation authorizes the Board to require an applicant to submit proof that he or she has passed an examination that tests the familiarity of an applicant with the laws and regulations relevant to the practice area for which the applicant is applying.

Existing regulations require a person who has been issued an apprentice license by the Board to participate in certain in-service training for a minimum of 2 years. (NAC 637B.0391) **Section 5** of this regulation authorizes a person whose apprentice license has expired but has been reinstated to receive credit for up to 2 years of in-service training from his or her initial license period.

Existing regulations establish the eligibility criteria for a hearing aid specialist or dispensing audiologist to act as the sponsor of an apprentice. (NAC 637B.0396) **Section 6** of this regulation requires a sponsor of an apprentice to have the same employer as the apprentice during the term of the on-site training period.

**Section 1.** Chapter 637B of NAC is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 and 3 of this regulation.

**Sec. 2.** *For the purposes of subsection 1 of NRS 637B.080, the provisions of chapter 637B of NRS do not apply to a person who holds a current credential issued by the Department of Education pursuant to chapter 391 of NRS and any regulations adopted pursuant thereto who engages in the practice of audiology or speech-language pathology, as applicable, within the scope of that credential if the person:*

*1. Holds an active teacher's license issued pursuant to chapter 391 of NRS and an endorsement to teach pupils who have hearing impairments or to teach pupils who have speech and language impairments;*

2. *Is employed by a public educational institution; and*
3. *Does not engage in the practice of audiology or speech-language pathology as an independent contractor or provide services in the private practice of audiology or speech-language pathology.*

**Sec. 3.** *1. If a person has engaged or is engaging in the practice of audiology, the practice of speech-language pathology or the practice of fitting and dispensing hearing aids in this State without holding a valid license issued pursuant to the provisions of chapter 637B of NRS, the Board will issue and serve on the person an order to cease and desist as authorized by NRS 637B.290.*

*2. A citation issued pursuant to subsection 1 may include the assessment of an administrative fine against the person to whom the citation is issued. If an administrative fine is assessed against a person to whom a citation is issued, such an administrative fine must be:*

*(a) If unauthorized practice occurred over a period of 30 days or less, not less than \$50 or more than \$200.*

*(b) If the unauthorized practice occurred over a period of 30 days or more, not less than \$200 or more than \$5,000.*

*3. A person to whom a citation is issued pursuant to subsection 1 may appeal the citation by submitting a written request for a hearing to the Board. The written request for a hearing must be submitted to the Board not later than 30 days after the date on which the citation was issued. Upon receipt of a written request for a hearing, the Board will conduct a hearing on the citation. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Board may waive any administrative fine assessed against the person to whom the citation was issued if:*

*(a) The administrative fine was assessed for a first offense;*

*(b) The unauthorized practice for which the administrative fine was assessed occurred due to a failure by the person to renew his or her license in a timely manner pursuant to NAC 637B.036 and the license was reinstated not later than 60 days after the date on which the license expired; or*

*(c) The Board determines that good cause exists. As used in this paragraph, “good cause” includes, without limitation, circumstances under which a person suffers from an illness, injury or disability, experiences a family hardship or is subject to other circumstances beyond the person’s control as may be determined by the Board.*

*4. If a person against whom a citation has been issued pursuant to subsection 1 submits a written request for a hearing to the Board and the written request seeks a waiver of any administrative fine assessed against the person, the person who submits such a written request must include with the request proof necessary to demonstrate the existence of one or more of the circumstances justifying the waiver of the administrative fine as set forth in subsection 3.*

**Sec. 4.** *The Board may require an applicant for any category of license issued by the Board to submit with his or her application for licensure proof that the applicant has passed an examination that tests the familiarity of the applicant with the provisions of this chapter and chapter 637B of NRS and all other federal laws and regulations relevant to the practice area for which the applicant is applying.*

**Sec. 5.** NAC 637B.0391 is hereby amended to read as follows:

637B.0391 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, the in-service training of a person who has been issued an apprentice license by the Board pursuant to NRS 637B.195 must consist of:

(a) An academic portion, as set forth in NAC 637B.0392; and

(b) An on-site training and work experience portion which is competency-based, as set forth in NAC 637B.0394.

2. An apprentice shall participate in the in-service training set forth in subsection 1 under the direct supervision of a sponsor for a minimum of 2 years and, in accordance with NRS 637B.238, may not serve as an apprentice for more than 3 years without passing the examination set forth in NAC 637B.0373.

3. An apprentice is not required to participate in the in-service training required by this section if the apprentice:

(a) Holds an associate's degree in hearing instrument sciences which is approved by the National Board for Certification in Hearing Instrument Sciences; or

(b) Successfully completes a program of education or training in hearing instrument sciences which is approved by the Board.

*4. If approved by the Board, an apprentice whose license as an apprentice expired but is reinstated may receive credit for not more than 2 years of in-service training completed during the initial license period.*

**Sec. 6.** NAC 637B.0396 is hereby amended to read as follows:

637B.0396 1. To be eligible to act as a sponsor of an apprentice, a hearing aid specialist or dispensing audiologist must:

- (a) Hold a standard license that is on active status;
  - (b) Have experience as a hearing aid specialist or dispensing audiologist for a minimum of 3 years; ~~and~~
  - (c) *Be employed by the same employer as the apprentice during the term of the on-site training and work experience portion of the in-service training of the apprentice; and*
  - (d) Be in good standing with the Board and have no record of disciplinary action.
2. A hearing aid specialist or dispensing audiologist shall not sponsor more than two apprentices at one time, and an apprentice shall not have more than two sponsors at one time.