



# Overview of Bill Draft Request #603

of the 81st (2021) Session of the Nevada Legislature

Assemblywoman Michelle Gorelow, Sponsor

**Nevada Speech Language-Pathology, Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensing Board**

December 2020

# WHAT IS BDR #603

NRS 637B.175 prescribes the maximum fees the Board may charge for licensing and other services.

## **BDR #603 revises the current fee caps in NRS 637B.175.**

These are the **FEE CAPS.**

**ACTUAL FEES** currently charged are listed in NAC 637B.

**This BDR will support our continued work on your behalf.**

Through its operations and actions the Board creates public confidence in the licensed professions by ensuring high quality standards of care in delivery of services and protection of consumers from individuals who do not meet those standards.



# WE HEARD YOU...

...and we acted! Proposed fee cap increases have been **reduced** due to licensee feedback and COVID-19.

Fee	Current FEE CAP	Proposed FEE CAP*	Current ACTUAL FEE
Application Fee	\$150	\$200	<b>\$150</b>
License Fee	\$100	\$150	<b>\$100</b>
Fee for the renewal of a license	\$100	\$150	<b>\$100</b>
Reinstatement fee	\$100	\$200	<b>\$100</b>
Examination fee	\$300	No Increase	<b>\$200</b>
Fee for converting to a different type of license	\$50	No Increase	<b>\$50</b>
Fee for each additional license or endorsement	\$50	No Increase	<b>\$50</b>
Fee for obtaining license information	\$50	\$100	<b>\$50</b>

Actual fees currently charged are **at the maximum fee caps**, except for one.



# WHY A FEE CAP INCREASE?

- Every year from FY16 to FY19, the Board's operating budget resulted in a negative net income; fortunately, the Board had available over \$70,000 in reserves to cover the difference. Although cost-savings have been implemented, **reserves are now less than one year's operating costs.**
- Actual fees charged **currently are at the maximum fee caps** (except for one).
- Continued **licensee growth** increases staff licensing and oversight work.
- Our responsibility to **protect the public** requires timely investigation of complaints, which may increase with Board growth, yet legal and investigative costs are often not recoverable.
- Investments in technology & efficiency result in **convenience for licensees and mitigation of overhead/staff costs** through automation.



# HOW ARE BOARD FUNDS MANAGED?

Our Board operates independently and is **funded solely by licensing fees**, utilizing state contract services as much as possible.

## BOARD BUDGET CATEGORIES

- Personnel
- Legal Fees
- Bank Fees
- Board Member Compensation
- Dues (Memberships)
- Equipment
- Examination Proctors & Materials
- Insurance
- Licensing Database/Website
- Meeting Expenses
- Office Lease Cost-Share
- Office Supplies
- Postage
- Printing
- Professional Fees (Accounting, Legislative Services, IT Support)
- Telephone/Technology (Local/Long Distance, ZOOM, Office 365)
- Travel

## COST-SAVING EFFORTS

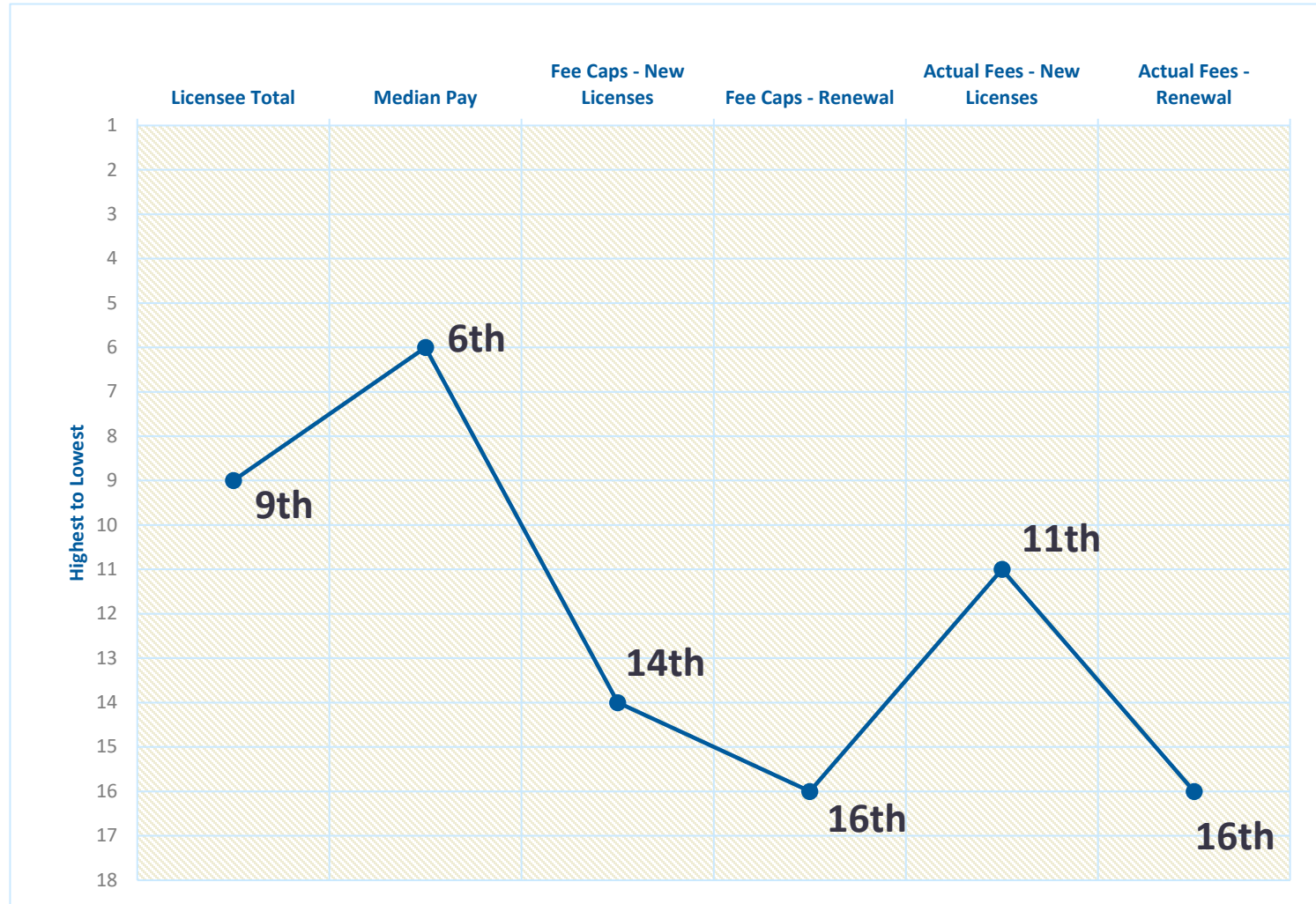
- **Part-time** staffing
- **No salary increases** in FY21
- **Co-location** with two (2) other Boards with 2020 reduction in office space costs
- 2020 launch of **online applications**
- 2020 **website upgrade**
- Transition to **Office 365 and SharePoint**
- Transition to **paperless operations**
- Space/supply/service **alternatives**
- Move to **decrease legal support** needs



# HOW DO WE COMPARE TO OTHER BOARDS?

A comparison of our Board's size, licensee salaries, and licensing fees with 17 other Nevada Boards similar in size and/or professional area showed:

- Our Board is **larger (# of licensees) than one-half** of the comparison Boards.
- Our practitioners' **median professional salaries are the 6<sup>th</sup> highest** of all 18 Boards.
- Both our **fee caps and actual fees charged are less than 50%** of the comparison Boards.
- Eight (8) of the comparison Boards **changed their NRS fee caps** in the last two legislative sessions: two (2) in 2017, and six (6) in 2019.



# HOW WILL LICENSEES BE IMPACTED?

If the BDR passes, the Board may pursue a change to NAC 637B to increase actual fees charged.

An analysis of both median salary data provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and the results of our 2020 Licensee Survey, which tell us that most of our licensees **earn \$60,000 or more annually**:

License Type	BOL Median Pay (2019)	Survey Self-Report of Annual Salary \$60,000 or Higher
Speech-Language Pathologist	\$79,120 annually (\$38.04/hour)	62% (233 of 373 respondents)
Audiologist	\$77,600 annually (\$37.31/hour)	78% (14 of 18 respondents)
Hearing Aid Specialist	\$53,420 (\$25.68/hour)	93% (29 of 31 respondents)

Current new application and renewal fees cost **less than one-half of one percent** of a \$60,000 annual salary.

Application + Licensing Fee = **\$250** → **0.42%** of annual salary  
 Renewal Fee = **\$100** → **0.17%** of annual salary

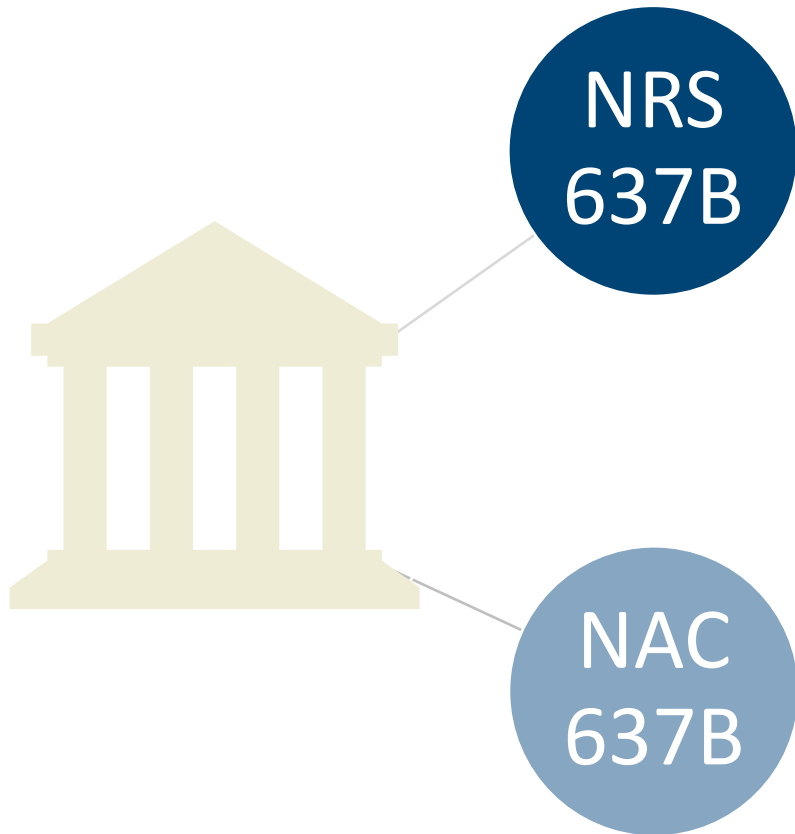
A \$25 increase in actual fees charged would keep these fees at **less than one-half of one percent** of \$60,000.

Application + Licensing Fee = **\$300** → **0.50%** of annual salary  
 Renewal Fee = **\$125** → **0.21%** of annual salary

A \$25 increase in actual new license/renewal fees would provide the Board with approximately **\$32,000** in additional revenue.



# WHEN WOULD LICENSEES SEE A CHANGE?



## INCREASE IN FEE CAPS

- Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) are the State of Nevada codified laws.
- NRS changes are formally made through legislation during Nevada's biennial legislative sessions occurring in odd-numbered years.
- Proposed for passage in the **2021 Legislative Session (June 2021)**

## INCREASE TO ACTUAL FEES CHARGED

- Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) are the codified, administrative regulations of the Executive Branch.
- NAC changes are made through administrative rulemaking during an interim between legislative sessions, which occur every two even-numbered years.
- The Board will likely pursue a modest fee increase in the **2021-2022 interim (could be approved and go into effect sometime in 2022)**





# HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

- Track this BDR at <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/81st2021/Bills/List>
- Contact us at [board@nvspeechhearing.org](mailto:board@nvspeechhearing.org)
- Follow updates on our website at <https://www.nvspeechhearing.org/about/proposedlawsregs.asp>

