

HB 2138 -- AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY INTERSTATE
COMPACT

SPONSOR: Kelley (127)

This bill allows a person wanting to practice speech-language pathology or audiology to apply for a provisional license allowing him or her to participate in a supervised professional employment period following completion of the academic and practicum requirements of an accredited training program.

The provisional license is for one year but may be extended for an additional 12 months if the purpose is to complete postgraduate clinical experience requirements. An applicant must complete his or her master's or doctoral degree from a program accredited by the Council of Academic Accreditation of the American Speech Language-Hearing Association or other accrediting agency approved by the board in the area in which licensure is sought within 12 months of the issuance of the provisional license. The applicant must also pass an examination promulgated or approved by the Board of Registration for the Healing Arts, within the Department of Commerce and Insurance, within 12 months of the issuance of the provisional license.

To be eligible for a non-provisional license from the Board of Registration for the Healing Arts, an applicant must show written evidence of completion of the supervised professional employment period. The written evidence must be written by his or her supervisor.

This bill also enters Missouri into a "Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact". An audiologist or speech-language pathologist with an unencumbered license practicing in a member state of the compact may be eligible to practice in other member states. The individual would be required to follow all laws, rules and regulations in the home or remote state he or she is practicing in.

The Compact is designed to achieve specified objectives, including, increasing public access to audiology and speech-language pathology services; supporting military spouses; enhancing the exchange of licensure, investigative, and disciplinary information between member states; and allowing a remote state to hold a provider with a compact privilege in that state accountable to that state's practice standards.

A licensed audiologist or speech-language pathologist providing services in a remote state is subject to that state's regulator authority. A remote state may remove a licensee's compact

privilege in the remote state for a specific period of time, impose fines, and/or take any other necessary actions to protect the health and safety of its citizens. Administrative actions will be reported to the individual's home state. A remote state can investigate and report complaints against an individual, but only an individual's home state can revoke his or her license.

The compact will have rules and regulations of the compact created and monitored by a "Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Compact Commission" comprised of delegates from all of the member states.

The Compact shall come into effect on the date on which the Compact statute is enacted into law in the 10th member state.