



LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF IDAHO



Sixty-fifth Legislature

First Regular Session - 2019

IN THE _____

BILL NO. _____

BY _____

AN ACT

RELATING TO SPEECH AND HEARING SERVICES; AMENDING SECTION 54-2904, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR ELECTRONIC PROOF OF LICENSURE AND TO MAKE A TECHNICAL CORRECTION; AND AMENDING SECTION 54-2916A, IDAHO CODE, TO REMOVE A REQUIREMENT THAT A SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER ATTAIN A MINIMUM AGE TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR LICENSURE AND TO MAKE A TECHNICAL CORRECTION.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. That Section 54-2904, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

54-2904. LICENSE REQUIRED. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, it shall be unlawful for any person to engage in the practice or to perform or offer to practice audiology or speech-language pathology or sign language interpreting or to act as a hearing aid dealer ~~or~~ and fitter unless such person is duly licensed in accordance with this chapter. A license issued pursuant to this chapter shall be posted in the licensee's established place of business, or proof of licensure carried upon the person, and shall be presented as proof of licensure upon demand. The proof of licensure required by this section may be produced in either paper or electronic format. Acceptable electronic formats include display of electronic images on a cellular phone or any other type of portable electronic device.

(2) It is unlawful for any person or business entity, or its employees, agents or representatives, to use in connection with his or her name, or name of activity of the business, the words "audiologist," "audiometrist," "hearing clinician," "hearing therapist," or any other title, abbreviation or insignia indicating or implying directly or indirectly that such person, business entity, employee, agent or representative is engaged in the practice of audiology, unless such services are provided by an audiologist licensed in accordance with this chapter or lawfully exempt pursuant to section 54-2905(1)(c), Idaho Code.

(3) It is unlawful for any person or business entity, or its employees, agents or representatives, to use in connection with his or her name, or name of activity of the business, the words "speech pathologist," "speech therapist," "speech correctionist," "speech clinician," "language therapist," "language pathologist," "voice therapist," "voice pathologist," "logopedist," "communicologist," "aphasiologist," or any other title, abbreviation or insignia indicating or implying directly or indirectly that such person, business entity, employee, agent or representative is engaged in the practice of speech-language pathology, unless such services are provided by a speech-language pathologist licensed in accordance with this chapter or lawfully exempt pursuant to section 54-2905(1)(c), Idaho Code.

(4) It is unlawful for any person or business entity, or its employees, agents or representatives, to use in connection with his or her name, or

1 name of activity of the business, the words "hearing aid dealer and fitter"
2 or any other title, abbreviation or insignia indicating or implying directly
3 or indirectly that such person, business entity, employee, agent or repre-
4 sentative is engaged in the practice of audiology or hearing aid dealing and
5 fitting, unless such services are provided by an audiologist or hearing aid
6 dealer and fitter licensed in accordance with this chapter.

7 (5) It is unlawful for any person or business entity, or its employees,
8 agents or representatives, to use in connection with his or her name, or name
9 of activity of the business, the words "sign language interpreter" or any
10 other title, abbreviation or insignia indicating or implying directly or in-
11 directly that such person, business entity, employee, agent or representa-
12 tive is engaged in the practice of sign language interpreting, unless such
13 services are provided by a sign language interpreter licensed in accordance
14 with this chapter.

15 SECTION 2. That Section 54-2916A, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby
16 amended to read as follows:

17 54-2916A. QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSURE -- SIGN LANGUAGE INTER-
18 PRETER. To be eligible for licensure as a sign language interpreter, the
19 applicant shall:

20 (1) File a written application with the board on forms prescribed and
21 furnished by the board. A nonrefundable application fee shall accompany the
22 completed written application. Such fees shall be established by the admin-
23 istrative rules of the board and shall be in such amounts as are reasonable
24 and necessary for the proper execution and enforcement of this chapter;

25 (2) Provide verification acceptable to the board of the following:

26 (a) ~~Having attained at least eighteen (18) years of age;~~

27 ~~(b) Good moral character;~~

28 ~~(c) Never having had a license or certification revoked or otherwise~~
29 ~~sanctioned as part of disciplinary action from this or any other state;~~

30 ~~(d) Never having been convicted, found guilty or received a withheld~~
31 ~~judgment for any felony; and~~

32 ~~(e) Never having been found by the board to have engaged in conduct~~
33 ~~prohibited by this chapter.~~

34 The board may take into consideration the rehabilitation of the applicant
35 and other mitigating circumstances when considering applications for licen-
36 sure.

37 (3) Provide evidence satisfactory to the board of having successfully
38 passed a nationally recognized competency examination approved by the board
39 or achieved certification defined by board rule;

40 (4) Provide educational documentation satisfactory to the board that
41 the applicant has successfully graduated from a ~~four-year~~ (4) year course at
42 an accredited high school or the equivalent; and

43 (5) Provide documentation that the applicant has successfully passed
44 an examination approved by the board.