

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 22

BY HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO SPEECH AND HEARING SERVICES; AMENDING SECTION 54-2904, IDAHO
2 CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR ELECTRONIC PROOF OF LICENSURE AND TO MAKE A TECHNICAL
3 CORRECTION; AND AMENDING SECTION 54-2916A, IDAHO CODE, TO REMOVE A
4 REQUIREMENT THAT A SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER ATTAIN A MINIMUM AGE TO BE
5 ELIGIBLE FOR LICENSURE AND TO MAKE A TECHNICAL CORRECTION.
6

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

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

10 54-2904. LICENSE REQUIRED. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this
11 chapter, it shall be unlawful for any person to engage in the practice or to
12 perform or offer to practice audiology or speech-language pathology or sign
13 language interpreting or to act as a hearing aid dealer ~~or~~ and fitter unless
14 such person is duly licensed in accordance with this chapter. A license is-
15 sued pursuant to this chapter shall be posted in the licensee's established
16 place of business, or proof of licensure carried upon the person, ~~and~~ shall
17 be presented ~~as proof of licensure~~ upon demand. The proof of licensure re-
18 quired by this section may be produced in either paper or electronic format.
19 Acceptable electronic formats include display of electronic images on a cel-
20 lular phone or any other type of portable electronic device.

21 (2) It is unlawful for any person or business entity, or its employ-
22 ees, agents or representatives, to use in connection with his or her name, or
23 name of activity of the business, the words "audiologist," "audiometrist,"
24 "hearing clinician," "hearing therapist," or any other title, abbreviation
25 or insignia indicating or implying directly or indirectly that such person,
26 business entity, employee, agent or representative is engaged in the prac-
27 tice of audiology, unless such services are provided by an audiologist li-
28 censed in accordance with this chapter or lawfully exempt pursuant to sec-
29 tion 54-2905(1)(c), Idaho Code.

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

41 (4) It is unlawful for any person or business entity, or its employ-
42 ees, 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 (e**b**) Never having had a license or certification revoked or otherwise
 29 sanctioned as part of disciplinary action from this or any other state;

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

32 (e**d**) 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.