

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Arkansas State Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology is revising its rules, including to but not limited to the following changes:

- Provide automatic licensure to certain military applicants, pursuant to Act 820 of 2019;
- Delegate to the Board's director the authority to issue licenses;
- Lower licensure fees
- Remove the 30-day grace period for licensure
- In compliance with Act 990, and using the Attorney General's model language, adds provisions for a pre-criminal background check and waiver request;
- Amends the Board's current license reinstatement provision to comply with Ark. Code Ann. § 17-1-107.
- Updates the Code of Ethics;
- Requires that first time hearing aid users under the age of 18 years must receive medical evaluation and clearance from an otolaryngologist within 6 months prior to being fitted with a hearing aid;
- Updates telepractice provisions to comply with most recent changes to Telemedicine Act and the Medical Board's rules;
- Clarifies licensure requirements for speech-language pathology assistants who work in public schools;

The proposed changes also include "housekeeping" matters, such as replacing "regulation" with rule, pursuant to act 315; deleting obsolete requirements; updating and clarifying terminology.

The proposed rule changes are available on our website at:

www.abespa.com

The Board will accept comments on the proposed rule from April 3, 2020 through May 4, 2020.

Please send comments to abespa@arkansas.gov or mail to:

Arkansas State Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology
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