



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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Bill Number: H. 4815 Introduced on January 31, 2018
Author: Arrington
Subject: Act No. 124, Speech-Language Pathologists Assistants Exemptions
Requestor: House Medical, Military, Public, and Municipal Affairs
RFA Analyst(s): A. Martin
Impact Date: March 6, 2018

Estimate of Fiscal Impact

	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20
State Expenditure		
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Other and Federal	Undetermined	\$0
Full-Time Equivalent Position(s)	0.00	0.00
State Revenue		
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Other and Federal	Undetermined	\$0
Local Expenditure	\$0	\$0
Local Revenue	Undetermined	\$0

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill will have no impact on the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation’s (LLR) General Fund, Federal Funds, or Other Funds expenditures because it does not materially alter the oversight or regulatory activities of the agency.

This bill may reduce Medicaid reimbursement expenditures of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) due to a reduction of Medicaid billing by local school districts. However, because the change in Medicaid billing is unknown, the expenditure impact to Federal Funds is undetermined.

This bill may reduce Medicaid reimbursement to local school districts due to a reduction of speech-language pathology services provided in schools. Because the effect on service provided is unknown, the impact on local revenue is undetermined.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 31, 2018

State Expenditure

This bill requires speech-language pathology assistants and supervising pathologists to adhere to the guidelines of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. This bill also modifies the definition of speech-language pathologist and the continuing education requirements for licensure.

Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation. This bill requires the Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology of LLR, to increase the number of licenses issued after January 1, 2019. These additional activities do not alter the oversight or regulatory

responsibilities of the board. Therefore, this bill will have no expenditure impact on the General Fund, Federal Funds, or Other Funds for LLR.

Department of Health and Human Services. This bill would require speech-language pathologists and audiologists employed by a political subdivision of the state after January 1, 2019, to obtain a license. Currently, such employees are exempt from licensure requirements and include speech-language pathologists and speech-language pathology therapists employed by local school districts. The Department of Education (SCDE) reports that speech-language pathologists hired by local school districts bill Medicaid for services performed in a school setting. The services may be provided by speech-language pathology assistants, interns, or therapists, but must be supervised by a speech-language pathologist.

Speech-language pathologists and pathology therapists hired after January 1, 2019, would be required to obtain a license. SCDE indicates that, as a result of this bill, it may be difficult to obtain a sufficient number of licensed pathologists and pathology therapists to provide the current volume of services. Therefore, this may reduce the amount of services billed to Medicaid, which would in turn reduce Medicaid reimbursement expenditures of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). However, because the effect on current school personnel is unknown, the expenditure impact to Federal Funds is undetermined.

State Revenue

Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation. This bill would require speech-language pathologists and audiologists hired by a state or federal agency after January 1, 2019, to obtain a license. Currently, such employees are exempt from licensure requirements. As a result, this bill will increase the number of licenses issued after January 1, 2019. This bill will not affect state or federal speech-language pathologists employed prior to this date, as they will remain exempt from licensure requirement. While the agency does not anticipate the increase to be significant, LLR is unable to determine the additional number of licensure requests due to this requirement. Therefore, the increase to Other Funds revenue is undetermined.

This bill requires any person licensed in a profession that overlaps with the scope of speech-language pathology or audiology to obtain a license under this chapter. Previously, these persons were exempt if they were licensed under Title 40 or another provision and did not hold themselves out to the public as a practitioner of speech-language pathology or audiology. While the agency does not anticipate the increase to be significant, LLR is unable to determine the additional number of licensure requests due to this requirement. Therefore, the increase to Other Funds revenue is undetermined.

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

This bill would require speech-language pathologists and audiologists hired by a political subdivision of the state after January 1, 2019, to obtain a license. Currently, such employees are exempt from licensure requirements and include speech-language pathologists and speech-

language pathology therapists employed by local school districts. The Department of Education (SCDE) reports that speech-language pathologists employed by local school districts bill Medicaid for services performed in a school setting. The services may be provided by speech-language pathology assistants, interns, or therapists, but must be supervised by a speech-language pathologist.

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Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director