

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
Senate Committee On Education

MEASURE: SB 287
CARRIER: Sen. Kruse

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 03/31/15

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 03/17, 03/31

Vote:

Yeas: 7 - Baertschiger Jr, Beyer, Gelser, Hass, Knopp, Kruse, Roblan

Prepared By: Gretchen Engbring, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Deletes provision that authorizes teachers who are licensed and endorsed by Teacher Standards and Practices Commission to practice speech-language pathology without obtaining license from State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. Becomes operative July 1, 2016. Creates grandfather clause for teachers who are licensed and endorsed by commission before July 1, 2016.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Changes in profession and practice of speech-language pathology
- Challenges resulting from two distinct licensing systems with different standards
- Ensuring quality of care through licensing

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology was established in 1973 to license and regulate the performance of speech-language pathologists and audiologists for consumer protection. However, ORS 681.230 currently allows teachers licensed by the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) who are holding a communication disorders or speech impaired endorsement issued by the commission to practice speech-language pathology as employees of education service districts, school districts, or charter schools. Of the current TSPC-licensed speech-language pathologists, approximately 37 percent have not been licensed by the Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology.

In August 2014, the TSPC voted unanimously to support the concept of the Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology licensing all new speech-language pathologists working in kindergarten through grade twelve schools. Senate Bill 287 deletes the provision that authorizes teachers who are licensed and endorsed by the TSPC to practice speech-language pathology without obtaining a license from the State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology.