

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

**MEASURE: SB 287**  
**CARRIER: Rep. Hack**

**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact

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**Action Date:** 05/08/15

**Action:** Do Pass.

**Meeting Dates:** 04/29, 05/08

**Vote:**

Yeas: 9 - Barreto, Doherty, Frederick, Hack, McLain, Piluso, Reardon, Sprenger, Wilson

**Prepared By:** Richard Donovan, Committee Administrator

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Deletes provision that authorizes teachers who are licensed and properly 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 properly endorsed 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
- Methods for ensuring quality of care and high standards for licensure

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (Board) 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% have not been licensed by the Board. In August 2014, the TSPC voted unanimously to support the concept of the Board 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 Board.