

Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

	2013-15 Actual	2015-17 Legislatively Approved*	2017-19 Current Service Level	2017-19 Agency Request	2017-2019 Governor's Recommended
Other Funds	543,636	680,390	717,500	729,953	688,032
Total Funds	\$543,636	\$680,390	\$717,500	\$729,953	\$688,032
Positions	2	3	3	3	3
FTE	2.00	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50

*Includes Emergency Board and administrative actions through December 2016.

Program Description

The Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology protects the public by licensing and regulating the performance of speech-language pathologists, speech-language pathology assistants, and audiologists. The Board adopts rules governing standards of practice; investigates alleged violations; and grants, denies, suspends, and revokes licenses. The Board is 100% Other Funds, through revenue generated from application, licensure and certification fees.

CSL Summary and Issues

The Current Service Level, as well as the Agency Request and the Governor's Recommended budget have incorrect position and FTE counts. The Board was provided with a limited duration Investigator position in 2015 which should have phased out at CSL and, if desired, included as a Policy Option Package in the Agency Request Budget.

Policy Issues

The Board received a limited duration Investigator position in HB 5023 (2015) to address increasing complaint and investigation workload, in lieu of limitation to continue contract investigators. This position should have phased out, in which case the Board would, presumably, have either requested the position continue or requested limitation to return to the prior use of contract investigators.

Other Significant Issues and Background

The Board licenses about 2,500 practitioners on a biennial renewal. The individual licensee numbers have continued to increase, up 14% over the past two-year cycle. The Board implemented criminal background checks in 2015 and received a limited duration investigator position to address the anticipated increase in workload. However, the number of investigations related to the implementation of criminal background checks has not emerged. As a result, the limited duration position has not been filled by the Board. The Board has found a positive fit with a contract professional that provides the Board with investigator services and the Executive Director has preferred to gather more data before moving forward with a position request. Overall, disciplinary and compliance cases are increasing as the overall licensee numbers increase, averaging about 65 cases per year over the past five years.

LFO will need to adjust the budget to reflect the limited duration position being phased out, and either include another limited duration position or limitation for the contract investigator to allow the Board to continue their current and anticipated workload.

The HRLB boards now share an Accountant position to perform the budget and accounting functions rather than utilizing DAS Shared Financial Services. LFO will likely need to review the budgeted amounts and make adjustments to accurately reflect the most recent cost-allocation data for distribution of the Accountant position costs between the Boards.

The Board's ending balance at the Governor's Budget is projected to be \$209,323 or approximately 7 months of operating costs. This is a necessary threshold for the Board as the biennial renewal takes place primarily in December of odd-numbered years.