

I Mina'Trentai Kuáttro Na Liheslaturan
BILL STATUS

BILL NO.	SPONSOR	TITLE	DATE INTRODUCED	DATE REFERRED	CMTE REFERRED	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	FISCAL NOTES	NOTES
113-34 (COR)	Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr. Joe S. San Agustin	AN ACT TO AMEND § 121801 DEFINITIONS, § 121802 QUALIFICATION FOR LICENSURE, § 121803 EXCEPTIONS TO LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS, AND § 121804 SCOPE OF PRACTICE; AND TO ADD A NEW § 121805 LICENSURE RENEWAL, ALL OF ARTICLE 18 OF CHAPTER 12, PART 2, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY.	6/9/17 2:45 p.m.						

MINA' TRENTAI KUÁTTTRO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN
2017 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 113-34 (COR)

Introduced by:

Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.
Joe S. San Agustin

AN ACT TO AMEND § 121801 DEFINITIONS, § 121802 QUALIFICATION FOR LICENSURE, § 121803 EXCEPTIONS TO LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS, AND § 121804 SCOPE OF PRACTICE; AND TO ADD A NEW § 121805 LICENSURE RENEWAL, ALL OF ARTICLE 18 OF CHAPTER 12, PART 2, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY.

2017 JUN -9 PM 2:45

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guáhan* finds that Article 18 was added by PL 24-329:11 (Aug. 14, 1998). It is the intent of this Act to enact the following amendments, revisions and additions developed by Marianas Alliance of Speech Language/Hearing Professionals to update and better assist the children and adults of Guam with speech, language, hearing difficulties.

Section 2. Section 121801 of Article 18, Chapter 12, Part 2, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, is *amended*, to read:

“§ 121801. Definitions.

For the purposes of this Article, the following words and phrases have been defined to mean:

(a) American Speech, Language, Hearing Association (ASHA) means the recognized national association which sets ethical and practice standards for the field of Speech-Language Pathology;

(b) Speech-Language Pathology-Assistant, (Bachelor level), SLPA-B, means any individual who meets the minimum qualifications which the Board may establish for speech-language assistants, whose qualifications shall be less than those established by this Article ~~these Rules~~ for licensure as a speech-language pathologist, and who is licensed and works under the direct, then indirect supervision (as defined by ASHA Guidelines for Supervision) of a licensed speech-language pathologist.

(c) Licensed Speech-Language Pathology-Assistant, (Master's level), SLPA-M means any individual who meets the minimum qualifications which the Board may establish for speech-language assistants, whose qualifications shall be less than those established by this Article ~~these Rules~~ for licensure as a speech-language pathologist, and who is licensed and works under the indirect supervision of a licensed speech-language pathologist.

(d) Speech-Language Pathologist, (SLP) means any individual who is duly licensed by the Board to practice in the field of speech-language pathology.

(e) Speech-Language Pathology means the application of principles, methods and procedures for the measurement, testing, evaluation, prediction, counseling, instruction, habilitation or rehabilitation related to the development and disorders of speech, voice, fluency, ~~or~~ language, augmentative alternative communication, neurological disorders, or swallowing disorders, for the purpose of evaluating, identifying, treating, preventing, ameliorating, or modifying such disorders and conditions in children or adults ~~individuals or groups of individuals~~.

(f) Supervision.

(1) Direct (initial) supervision shall mean supervision whereby a licensed Speech-Language Pathologist diagnoses the condition to be treated, disseminates the therapy information to the SLPA-B, and

remains on the premises while the procedures are being performed by an SLPA-B. The Supervising SLP will also follow the ASHA guidelines for training. The SLPA-B must demonstrate proficiency in order to allow for indirect supervision.

(2) Indirect supervision shall mean supervision whereby a licensed SLP authorizes the procedures which are being carried out, but need not be present on the premises when the authorized procedures are being performed by a SLPA-M. The licensee must be available on island by telecommunications.

(3) The supervising licensed speech-language pathologist of a SLPA-B or SLPA-M shall not supervise more than five (5) individuals at one time. The licensed SLP sponsor will assume all responsibilities and will meet all sponsorship requirements for such individuals as set forth by the Board.”

Section 3. Section 121802 of Article 18, Chapter 12, Part 2, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, is *amended*, to read:

“§ 121802. Qualifications for Licensure.

(a) Speech-Language Pathologist. To be eligible for licensure by the Board as a speech-language pathologist, an applicant must possess a current Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) in Speech-Language Pathology issued by ASHA as evidence of professional training and experience. Applicants shall arrange for an official statement from ASHA to be sent directly to the GBAHE reporting present ASHA certification.

(b) Speech-Language Pathology-Assistant (SLPA-B) shall possess at least a Bachelor's degree in speech and language or communication disorders. The Board may establish further qualifications for speech language assistants and shall work under the direct or indirect supervision of a licensed Speech-Language Pathologist. The SLA-B and supervisor will complete and submit the Supervisor form provided by the Board upon application, renewal and no later than three (3) working days upon any supervisory changes within a license renewal year. If any changes occur within the renewal year that affects both supervisor requirement (primary and secondary) the Supervisor Form must be revised and submitted before the SLPA-B can practice.

(c) Speech-Language Assistant (SLPA-M) shall possess at least a Master's degree in speech-language pathology or communication disorders and may work under the indirect supervision of a licensed Speech-Language Pathologist, respective to the individual's understanding and assessed performance of speech-language disorders. The SLA-M and supervisor will complete and submit the Supervisor form provided by the Board upon application, renewal and no later than three (3) working days upon any supervisory changes within a license renewal year. If any changes occur within the renewal year that affects both supervisor requirement (primary and secondary) the Supervisor Form must be revised and submitted before the SLPA-M can practice."

Section 4. Section 121803 of Article 18, Chapter 12, Part 2, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, is *amended*, to read:

“§ 121803. Exception to Licensure Requirements.

These rules and regulations shall not be construed as preventing or restricting:

(a) any person licensed on Guam under any other law, from engaging in the profession or occupation for which he or she is licensed;

(b) the activities and services of persons pursuing a course of study leading to a degree in Speech-Language Pathology at a college or university, if such activities and services constitute a part of an approved supervised course of study, and such person is designated a speech-language intern or trainee;

(c) the activities and services of persons presently working on their Clinical Fellowship Year (“CFY”), and such person is ~~designated~~ registered as a “CFY-Speech-Language Pathologist” by ASHA, working under a Licensed SLP on Guam.

~~(d) the activities of any individual who works in the field of speech language pathology, who does not meet the requirements of licensure and who is working under the indirect supervision of a licensed Speech Language Pathologist, respective to the individual's work. This includes activities of a speech language assistant, who shall possess at least a Bachelor's degree in speech and language disorders. A licensed speech language pathologist may not supervise more than five (5) individuals at one time. The licensed sponsor will assume all responsibilities and will meet all sponsorship requirements for such individuals as set forth by the Board.”~~

Section 5. Section 121804 of Article 18, Chapter 12, Part 2, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, is *amended*, to read

“§ 121804. Scope of Practice:

(a) Speech-Language Pathologist. The scope of practice for speech-language pathology includes:

- (1) screening, identifying, assessing and interpreting, diagnosing, rehabilitating and preventing disorders of speech (e.g. articulation, fluency, voice,) and language;
- (2) screening, identifying, assessment interpreting, diagnosing rehabilitating and preventing disorders of ~~oral-pharyngeal function~~ (e.g. dysphagia (swallowing), and related disorders;
- (3) screening, identifying, assessing and interpreting, diagnosing and rehabilitating cognitive and communication disorders (e.g. individuals who have been diagnosed with mental deficiency, traumatic brain injury, aphasia, stroke or other neurological disorders.);
- (4) assessing, selecting and developing augmentative and alternative communication systems, and providing training in their use;
- (5) providing aural rehabilitation and related counseling services to hearing impaired individuals and their families.
- (6) enhancing speech-language proficiency and communication effectiveness (e.g. accent reduction); and
- (7) screening of hearing and other factors for the purpose of speech-language evaluation or the initial identification of individuals with other communication disorders.

(b) A licensed Speech-Language Pathologist is professionally and legally responsible for patient/client care given by SLPA-B (§121802(a)) and SLPA-M (§121803(b)) under the Speech-Language Pathologist's supervision. If a Speech-Language Pathologist fails to adequately supervise the patient/client care by supportive personnel, as strictly provided and authorized pursuant to this Article, the Board may take disciplinary action against the licensee. Supervision of supportive personnel requires that the Licensed Speech-Language Pathologist perform the following activities:

(1) Assess the competence of supportive personnel to perform assigned tasks.

(2) Document sufficient in-service training and periodic evaluation of performance to assure safe performance of the tasks assigned to supportive personnel.

(c) Speech-Language Pathology Assistant, (Bachelor level), (SLPA-B), must work under the direct or indirect supervision of, and may only implement the therapeutic plan, designed by the supervising, licensed SLP in conjunction with treatment goals and be responsible for all documentation of treatment which is co-signed by the supervising speech-language pathologist.

~~A speech language assistants, as defined by this Article, must work under the indirect supervision of the speech language pathologist and may progress the plan in conjunction with the treatment goals.;~~

(d) Speech-Language Pathology Assistant-(Master level), (SLPA-M) (without the CCC), must work under the indirect supervision of, and shall confer with and have all reports co-signed by the supervising licensed SLP. The Master level speech-language assistant shall perform all of the following duties: diagnostic testing, interpreting evaluation results, documenting all evaluation results, developing written goals and objectives based upon evaluation results, teacher/parent reports, attending all informal/formal student meetings, maintaining a therapeutic and consultative case load, performing and documenting all therapeutic intervention, designing or selecting appropriate therapy materials or augmentative or alternative communication systems or devices.”

Section 6. A new Section 121805 is *added* to Article 18 of Chapter 12, Part 2, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, to read:

“§ 121805. Licensure Renewal.

(a) The licensed Speech-Language Pathologist, SLPA-B, SLPA-M will follow license renewal requirements as provided pursuant to § 12824 of Article 8, Chapter 12, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated. In addition:

(1) Registration with the Board is required for both SLPA-B and SLPA-M within a renewal period every 2 years. This includes filling out the Board form (naming 2 licensed Speech-Language Pathology supervisors).

(2) Submission of proof of Continuing Education hours during renewal period every 2 years (Article 8 of this Chapter):

(1) For SLPA-B, 15 approved Continuing Education hours, directly related to speech-language pathology as approved by the Board.

(2) For SLPA-M, 20 approved Continuing Education hours, 15 direct hours and 5 indirect hours related to speech-language pathology, as approved by the Board.”

Section 7. Severability. If any provision of this law or its application to any person or circumstance is found to be invalid or contrary to law, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this law which can be given effect without the invalid provisions or application, and to this end the provisions of this law are severable.