

STATE OF WISCONSIN
HEARING AND SPEECH EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF RULEMAKING	:	NOTICE OF TIME PERIOD
PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE	:	FOR COMMENTS FOR THE
HEARING AND SPEECH EXAMINING	:	ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS
BOARD	:	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of the time period for public comment on the economic impact of this proposed rule of the Hearing and Speech Examining Board, including how this proposed rule may affect businesses, local government units and individuals. The comments will be considered when the Department of Safety and Professional Services prepares the Economic Impact Analysis pursuant to § 227.137. Written comments may be submitted to:

Jake Pelegrin, Administrative Rules Coordinator
Office of Chief Legal Counsel
Department of Safety and Professional Services
PO Box 14497
Madison, WI 53708-0497
DSPSAdminRules@wisconsin.gov

The deadline for submitting economic impact comments is August 19, 2026.

PROPOSED ORDER

A proposed order of the Hearing and Speech Examining Board to *repeal and recreate* HAS 7.03 (3) (b) relating to Renewal and Reinstatement.

Analysis prepared by the Department of Safety and Professional Services.

ANALYSIS

Statutes interpreted: Section 459.12 (1), Stats.

Statutory authority: Sections 15.08 (5) (b), and 459.12 (1), Stats.

Explanation of agency authority:

Section 15.08 (5) (b), Stats.: “Each examining board shall promulgate rules for its own guidance and for the guidance of the trade or profession to which it pertains, and define and enforce professional conduct and unethical practices not inconsistent with the law relating to the particular trade or profession.”

Section 459.12 (1), Stats.: “The examining board may make rules not inconsistent with the laws of this state which are necessary to carry out the intent of this chapter.”

Related statute or rule: None.

Plain language analysis:

The objective of the proposed rule is to update license renewal requirements for hearing instrument specialist licenses, speech-language pathologist licenses, and audiologist licenses that have been expired for more than 5 years. Current requirements in paragraph HAS 7.03 (3) (b) state that to renew after 5 years of expiration, the applicant must hold a valid license in another state or pass the exam respective to their profession within the last 12 months. The proposed rule repeals and recreates this paragraph to state that in addition to paying the appropriate fees, all the renewal applicant needs to do is complete continuing education consistent with section HAS 8.03.

Summary of, and comparison with, existing or proposed federal regulation: None.

Comparison with rules in adjacent states:

Illinois: In the Illinois Compiled Statutes 225 Chapter 50, the Hearing Instrument Consumer Protection Act outlines the requirements for licensure, continuing education, and discipline of Hearing Instrument Dispensers, among other requirements [225 Illinois Compiled Statutes 50]. The related rules in the Illinois Administrative Code Title 77 Part 682 contain the requirements for applications, supervision of students, examinations, expiration of license, and renewal. For renewal of a Hearing Instrument Dispenser License that has been expired for more than 2 years, the individual shall pay the renewal fee, a late fee, and complete continuing education requirements. The individual may also be required to successfully complete the Illinois Hearing Instrument Dispenser examinations, if they have no evidence of practice in the previous two years [Illinois Administrative Code Title 77 Part 682 Section 682.250].

In the Illinois Compiled Statutes 2250 Chapter 110, the Illinois Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Practice Act outlines the requirements for licensure, continuing education, renewal, and discipline of Licensed Audiologists and Licensed Speech-Language Pathologists, among other requirements. An individual with a license that has expired for 5 years or more may apply for reinstatement if they file proof of their fitness to have their license restored, including proof of practice in another jurisdiction and paying the restoration fee. An individual who has not maintained active practice in another jurisdiction shall complete an evaluation process determined by rule which may include evaluated clinical experience and an examination [225 Illinois Compiled Statutes 110]. The related administrative rules in the Illinois Administrative Code Title 68 Part 1465 include requirements for the restoration evaluation process. An individual who has an expired license for more than 5 years shall submit either evidence of active practice in another United States jurisdiction, an affidavit attesting to military service, or successful completion of the PRAXIS examination within one year prior to application for restoration. The individual shall also complete at least 20 hours of continuing education, pay the required restoration fee, and complete an interview before the Illinois Board [Illinois Administrative Code Title 68 Part 1465 Section 1465.80].

Iowa: Chapter 154A of the Iowa Code outlines the requirements for the licensure of Hearing Aid Specialists. Hearing Aid Specialists may perform hearing aid fitting which includes the sale of hearing aids and making earmold impressions as part of the fitting process [Iowa Code Chapter 154A]. Chapters 2060 through 2064 of the Iowa

Administrative Code further elaborate on the requirements for the practice of Hearing Aid Specialists including licensure, renewal, supervision, continuing education, and dispensing of hearing aids. An individual who has a license that has been inactive for more than 5 years shall complete a reactivation application, submit verification of their licenses from other jurisdictions, verification of 48 hours of continuing education within two years of application for reactivation [Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 2060 Section 2060.8 (2) b.].

Chapter 154F of the Iowa Code outlines the requirements for the licensure and examination for Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists [Iowa Code Chapter 154F]. Chapters 740 through 744 of the Iowa Administrative Code include requirements for licensure, renewal, continuing education, and discipline or Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists. An individual who has a license that has been inactive for more than 5 years shall complete a reactivation application, submit verification of their licenses from other jurisdictions, verification of 52 hours of continuing education within two years of application for reactivation, and verification of passing the PRAXIS examination within two years prior to application for reactivation [Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 740 Section 740.11 (2) b.].

Michigan: The Michigan Compiled Laws, Chapter 339, Act 299, Article 13, includes requirements for licensure and regulation of Hearing Aid Dealers and Salespersons, as well as the Board of hearing aid dealers. In Michigan, licensed Hearing Aid Dealers perform the practice of selling or fitting a hearing aid, which includes audiometric testing and making ear mold impressions [Michigan Compiled Laws Sections 339.1301 to 1309]. Additionally, a Hearing Aid Dealer who has an expired license for 3 years or more must meet the requirements for licensure established by the Michigan Department of Regulator Affairs, which may include passing an examination completing continuing education requirements, or meeting current education and training requirements [Michigan Compiled Laws Section 339.411] Other renewal requirements include that a Hearing Aid Dealer shall renew on a biennial basis [Michigan Administrative Rules R 339.1003].

The Michigan Compiled Laws, Chapter 333, Act 368, Article 15, Part 168, includes the requirements for licensure as an Audiologist, as well as requirements for the Michigan Borad of Audiology [Michigan Compiled Laws Sections 333.16801 to 333.16811]. The related administrative rules include additional licensure requirements, as well as requirements for limited licenses, examinations, education, license renewal, re-licensure and continuing education. An individual who has an Audiologist license that has been expired for more than 3 years may be relicensed if they submit an application, establishes good moral character, provides fingerprints and proof of either passing an examination required under R 338.7 during the 2 years immediately before application for re-licensure or proof that the individual has been licensed as an Audiologist in another jurisdiction [Michigan Administrative Rules R 338.9].

The Michigan Compiled Laws, Chapter 333, Act 368, Article 15, Part 176, includes the requirements for licensure as a Speech-Language Pathologist, as well as requirements for the Michigan Borad of Speech-Language Pathology [Michigan Compiled Laws

Sections 333.17601 to 333.17613]. The related administrative rules include additional licensure requirements, as well as requirements for temporary licenses, examinations, education, license renewal, re-licensure and continuing education. An individual who has an Speech-Language Pathologist license that has been expired for more than 3 years may be relicensed if they submit an application, establishes good moral character, provides fingerprints and proof of either passing an examination required under R 338.605 during the 2 years immediately before application for re-licensure, a current Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology (CCC-SLP) from the Council for Clinical Certification in Audiology or Speech-Language Pathology (CFCC), or proof that the individual has been licensed as an Speech-Language Pathologist in another jurisdiction [Michigan Administrative Rules R 338.621].

Minnesota: The Minnesota Statutes Chapter 148 includes requirements for speech-language pathology, audiology, as well as the practice of hearing aid dispensing. The practice of hearing aid dispensing includes making ear mold impressions, prescribing a hearing aid, testing human hearing and helping a customer select a prescription hearing aid. An individual who has an Audiologist or Speech-Language Pathologist license that has lapsed, must either apply for renewal and document compliance with continuing education requirements, or fulfill the requirements for licensure by reciprocity in section 148.517, or have a current unrestricted credential from the Professional Education Licensing and Standards Board, or submit verified completion of 160 hours of supervised practice under a temporary license, or provide documentation of a passing score on the examination described in section 148.515 [Minnesota Statutes Section 148.518].

Summary of factual data and analytical methodologies:

While promulgating this rule, the board reviewed Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapters HAS 1, 6, 7, and 8 and made updates accordingly.

Analysis and supporting documents used to determine effect on small business or in preparation of economic impact analysis:

The proposed rules will be posted for a period of 14 days to solicit public comment on economic impact, including how the proposed rules may affect businesses, local government units, and individuals.

Effect on small business:

These proposed rules do not have an economic impact on small businesses, as defined in s. 227.114 (1), Stats. The Department's Regulatory Review Coordinator may be contacted by email at Jennifer.Garrett@wisconsin.gov or phone at 608-266-2112.

Agency contact person:

Nilajah Hardin, Administrative Rules Coordinator, Department of Safety and Professional Services, Office of Chief Legal Counsel, P.O. Box 14997, Madison, Wisconsin 53708-0497; email at DSPSAdminRules@wisconsin.gov.

Place where comments are to be submitted and deadline for submission:

Comments may be submitted to Nilajah Hardin, Administrative Rules Coordinator, Department of Safety and Professional Services, Office of Chief Legal Counsel, 4822

Madison Yards Way, P.O. Box 14997, Madison, WI 53708-0497, or by email to DSPSAdminRules@wisconsin.gov. Comments must be received on or before the public hearing, held on a date to be determined, to be included in the record of rule-making proceedings.

TEXT OF RULE

SECTION 1. HAS 7.03 (3) (b) is repealed and recreated to read:

HAS 7.03 (3) (b) Certification of the continuing education required under s. HAS 8.03.

SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. The rules adopted in this order shall take effect on the first day of the month following publication in the Wisconsin Administrative Register, pursuant to s. 227.22 (2) (intro.), Stats.

(END OF TEXT OF RULE)
