

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 *create* HAS 6.045, relating to Audiologist Practical Examination.

Analysis prepared by the Department of Safety and Professional Services.

ANALYSIS

Statutes interpreted: Sections 459.12 (1) and 459.26 (2) (c), 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 this rule is to review the practical examination requirement for audiologists and make updates to align with current practice in the profession. For initial licensure of audiologists, the practical examination is required under section 459.26 (2) (b), Wis. Stats., but a waiver of the exam is allowed if the applicant has completed education or training that is substantially equivalent to completing the examination. Section 459.26 (2) (c), Wis. Stats., and section HAS 6.04 (8), Wis. Admin. Code, describe the requirements for a waiver. The proposed rule further clarifies that the waiver is allowed and outlines what is required for a waiver request.

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

Summary of public comments received on statement of scope and a description of how and to what extent those comments and feedback were taken into account in drafting the proposed rule:

The Hearing and Speech Examining Board held a Preliminary Hearing on Statement of Scope 054-25 on October 8, 2025, at 9:00am. The following people either testified at the hearing or submitted written comments:

- Timothy Bonson
- Katie Armatoski, AuD, Ascending Audiologists, LLC
- Christine Otte, AuD, CESA6
- Veronica Heide, AuD, Audible Difference, LLC
- Rachel Lee, AuD, University of Wisconsin-Madison

The Hearing and Speech Examining Board summarizes the comments received either by hearing testimony or written submission as follows:

- Timothy Bonson supports establishing a new practical examination for audiologist licensure in Wisconsin.
- Katie Armatoski supports removing the practical examination for licensed audiologists who have already completed the relevant coursework in their audiologist programs.
- Christine Otte supports removing the practical examination for audiologists since it is outdated and audiologists now graduate with more training than what the test requires.
- Veronica Heide supports a waiver of the practical examination for audiologists.
- Rachel Lee supports the Board establishing requirements for an equivalency waiver of the practical examination under HAS 6.04 (8).

The Hearing and Speech Examining Board did not make any changes to Scope Statement 054-25 based on public comments.

Comparison with rules in adjacent states:

Illinois: In the Illinois Compiled Statutes 225 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 applicant for Audiologist licensure in Illinois is not required to complete a separate practical examination in addition to the PRAXIS. [225 Illinois Compiled Statutes 110 Section 8].

Iowa: 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 Inspection and Appeals section of the Iowa Administrative Code include requirements for licensure, renewal, continuing education, and discipline of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists. An applicant for Audiologist licensure in Iowa is not required to complete a separate practical examination in addition to the PRAXIS [481 Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 740 Section 740.4].

Michigan: 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 Board of Audiology. An applicant for Audiologist licensure in Michigan is not required to take a practical examination in addition to the PRAXIS [Michigan Compiled Laws Sections 333.16801 to 333.16811].

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 applicant for Audiologist licensure in Minnesota is required to complete “practical tests of proficiency” as outlined in Section 153.14 (2h) of the Minnesota Statutes [Minnesota Statutes Section 148.515].

Summary of factual data and analytical methodologies:

While promulgating this rule, the board reviewed Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter HAS 6 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 6.045 is created to read:

HAS 6.045 Requests for waiver of audiologist practical examination. An applicant for audiologist licensure may submit a request for waiver of the practical examination required under s. 459.26 (2) (b), Stats. A request for a waiver shall be submitted to the board with a completed application under s. HAS 6.04, except for completion of the practical examination under s. HAS 6.04 (8).

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)
