



Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

77 South High Street, 16th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6108

www.slpaud.ohio.gov

Telephone: 614-466-3145 Fax: 614-995-2286 E-mail: board@slpaud.ohio.gov

August 3, 2017

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

We are writing to share information with you about upcoming changes related to the Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (SPE) and the Ohio Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Licensing Board (HAD). As you may already be aware, Am. Sub. H.B. 49, signed into law on July 1, 2017, creates the State Speech and Hearing Professionals Board (SHP), effective January 21, 2018. Under this new law, both SPE and HAD will be abolished and combined to create SHP.

Even before this most recent merger in our state of Ohio, at least eight other states have combined licensure of speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and hearing aid dealers and fitters under the same board. We understand that our licensees will have questions concerning this change. As a result, we have jointly prepared the following information to help answer some of these questions regarding the upcoming transition. Over the next six months, we will continue to keep you informed about the transition and the steps being taken to ensure a smooth and seamless process for you.

What is happening now?

For the next 6.5 months (until January 21, 2018), both Boards remain separate entities. During this time, the public and persons licensed by each distinct Board will experience no difference in contact information, service levels, licensing requirements, or customer service. Please continue to contact the specific Board for your particular licensing needs during this time.

What will change?

Effective January 21, 2018, according to Am. Sub. H. B. 49, the responsibilities and staff of the two Boards will merge and will be renamed the State Speech and Hearing Professionals Board. The law specifies that the new board will consist of three audiologists, two hearing aid fitters, two speech-language pathologists, and two public members, appointed by the Governor.

What's the impact?

- (1) Each Board is working together to complete this transition by the effective date of January 21, 2018. An implementation plan is being developed that will focus on the seamless merger of both entities into a new single licensing agency that regulates all groups of licensees.
- (2) The new law does not change the underlying licensing standards for each professional group. In other words, audiologists, speech-language pathologists, conditional speech-language pathologists, audiology aides and speech-language pathology aides are still licensed under Chapter 4753 of the Ohio Revised and Administrative Codes, and hearing aid dealers and fitters, trainees, and firms, partnerships, associations & corporations that engage in the merchandise of

hearing aids are still licensed under Chapter 4747 of the Ohio Revised and Administrative Codes.

(3) There should be no immediately noticeable changes. Most of the changes will be back office and administrative in nature.

(4) The new law does require all applicants for initial license to complete a criminal records check.

What the new law doesn't do:

(1) The new law does not eliminate or change educational, examination, licensing, or continuing education requirements for any group regulated by either Board. Hearing Aid Dealer and Fitter education, examination, licensing, and continuing education requirements remain the same as they are today. Similarly, the new law does not change or in any way eliminate any education, examination, licensing, or continuing education requirements for audiologists, speech-language pathologists, or other groups of licensees licensed by the SPE board.

As both Boards work together over the coming months, we will continue to provide you with information you need to know to successfully and conveniently conduct business with us. Please watch for communication from us in your inboxes and periodically visit our websites for new information at www.slpaid.ohio.gov and <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/hearing>.

Because we use email as a cost-saving, efficient way to communicate, please be sure that we have your email address in our records. You can update your e-mail address and contact information by registering and/or logging in to your user account via the new eLicense Ohio system at: https://elicense.ohio.gov/OH_HomePage

We look forward to working together to continue to serve you and the citizens of Ohio.

Sincerely,



Tammy H. Brown, M.A., CCC-A, FAAA,
Board Certified in Audiology
Chairperson
Board of Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology



Susan Turano, NBC-HIS, HAS
National Board Certified in Hearing Instrument
Sciences, Chairperson
Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Licensing Board