



MONTANA  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
REGISTER



**BOARD OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS AND AUDIOLOGISTS  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY**

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**NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

**MAR NOTICE NO. 2025-138.1**

**Summary**

Implementing House Bill 384 and revising the dates to apply for speech-language pathology or audiology assistant licensure

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**Hearing Date and Time**

Thursday, August 14, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.

**Virtual Hearing Information**

A public hearing will be held via remote conferencing to consider the proposed changes to the rule in this notice. There will be no in-person hearing. Interested parties may access the remote conferencing platform in the following ways:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://mt-gov.zoom.us/j/81742455616>

Meeting ID: 817 4245 5616; Password: 409188

Dial by Telephone: +1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 817 4245 5616; Password: 409188

**Comments**

Concerned persons may present their data, views, or arguments at the hearing. Written data, views, or arguments may also be submitted at [dli.mt.gov/rules](http://dli.mt.gov/rules) or P.O. Box 1728, Helena, Montana 59624. Comments must be received by Friday, August 22, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

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## Accommodations

The agency will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to participate in this rulemaking process or need an alternative accessible format of this notice. Requests must be made by Thursday, July 31, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

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## Contact

Department of Labor and Industry  
(406) 444-5466  
laborlegal@mt.gov  
Montana Relay: 711

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## General Reasonable Necessity Statement

The 2025 Montana Legislature enacted Chapter 451, Laws of 2025 (House Bill (HB) 384), an act revising the date to apply for licensure for speech-language pathology assistants and audiology assistants. The bill was signed by the Governor on May 5, 2025, and was immediately effective. The board must amend ARM 24.222.550 to implement the legislation by updating dates to reflect the statutory change.

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## Rulemaking Actions

### AMEND

The rule proposed to be amended is as follows, stricken matter interlined, new matter underlined:

### 24.222.550 ASSISTANT LICENSURE – INITIAL APPLICANTS

- (1) To practice as a licensed speech-language pathology or audiology assistant in Montana, all assistants must have at least one Montana licensed practitioner of the same profession to supervise the assistant per 37-15-102, MCA.
- (2) Speech-language pathology assistant applicants not currently licensed in another state or jurisdiction and who did not serve as unlicensed aides or assistants in Montana prior to ~~January 1, 2024~~ July 15, 2025, must have either:
  - (a) a baccalaureate degree in speech-language pathology or communication sciences and disorders from an accredited institution; or

- (b) a speech-language pathology assistant certificate or associate degree from an accredited institution.
- (3) Speech-language pathology assistant applicants not currently licensed in another state or jurisdiction and who served as unlicensed aides or assistants in Montana prior to ~~January 1, 2024~~ July 15, 2025, but do not meet the requirements in (2)(a) or (b) must have a minimum of 690 hours of practical experience under the supervision of a speech-language pathologist.
- (4) Audiology assistant applicants not currently licensed in another state or jurisdiction and who did not serve as unlicensed aides or assistants in Montana prior to ~~January 1, 2024~~ July 15, 2025, must have either:
  - (a) a baccalaureate degree in communication sciences and disorders from an accredited institution;
  - (b) an audiology assistant certificate or associate degree from an accredited institution; or
  - (c) a high school diploma or equivalent and a minimum of 10 hours of additional board-approved training in audiology.
- (5) Audiology assistant applicants not currently licensed in another state or jurisdiction and who served as unlicensed aides or assistants in Montana prior to ~~January 1, 2024~~ July 15, 2025, but do not meet the requirements in (4)(a), (b), or (c) must have a minimum of 110 hours of practical experience under the supervision of an audiologist.

**Authorizing statute(s):** 37-15-303, MCA

**Implementing statute(s):** 37-15-303, MCA

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### **Small Business Impact**

The board identifies that a small number of small businesses may be impacted, but the impact is minimal. The fee for licensure as an assistant is \$50. The group of small businesses affected are rural hospitals, small clinics, and private practices that may pay licensure fees for their employed speech-language pathology and audiology assistants. Documentation of the small business impact analysis is available upon request.

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### **Bill Sponsor Notification**

The primary bill sponsor was contacted on April 15, 2025, by electronic mail.

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**Interested Persons**

The agency maintains a list of interested persons who wish to receive notices of rulemaking actions proposed by the agency. Persons wishing to have their name added to the list may sign up at [dli.mt.gov/rules](http://dli.mt.gov/rules) or by sending a letter to P.O. Box 1728, Helena, Montana 59624 and indicating the program or programs about which they wish to receive notices.

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**Rule Reviewer**

Jennifer Stallkamp

**Approval**

Sarah Swanson, Commissioner

**Approval**

Hillary Carter, Presiding Officer, Board of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists