

# **SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY & AUDIOLOGY**

## **Enabling Laws**

Act 35 of 2012  
A.C.A. §17-100-101 et seq.

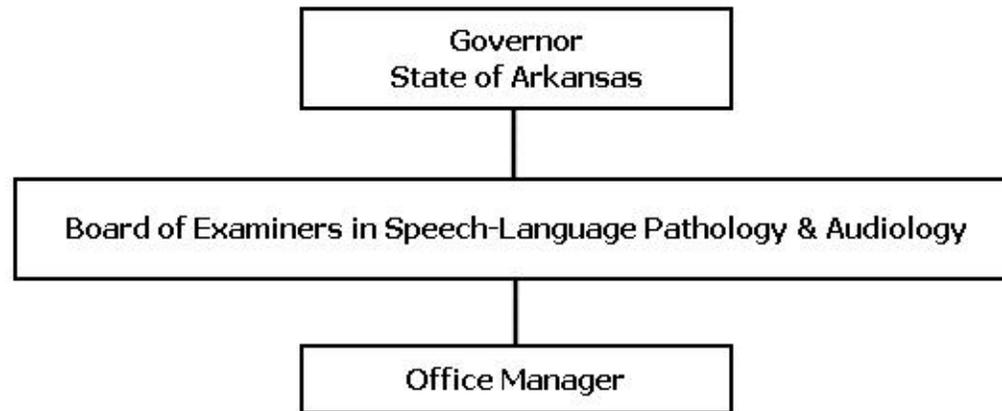
## **History and Organization**

The Arkansas Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (ABESPA) was formed in 1975 through enabling legislation, Act 277. Act 121 revised parts of the original legislation in 1993. In 1995 Act 826 was passed allowing use of speech-language pathology assistants. Rules and Regulations were last revised effective June 12, 2005.

The Board is composed of eight (8) members. These include five (5) professionals in Speech Pathology and Audiology (at least 2 from each field), a consumer representative, a public representative, and a senior citizen. The members are appointed by the Governor for three (3) year terms. A member may serve two (2) full consecutive terms.

The mission of this Board is to help assure the availability of the highest possible quality speech-language pathology and audiology services to the communicatively handicapped people of this State by strict licensing requirements and mandatory continuing professional education and to protect the public from being misled by incompetent, unscrupulous, and unauthorized persons and from unprofessional conduct on the part of qualified speech-language pathologists and audiologists.

ABESPA examines the credentials and qualifications of Speech Pathologists, Speech Pathology Assistants, and Audiologists who wish to provide services to the citizens of Arkansas. A license or registration is issued to those individuals who meet the qualifications. After licensure, each professional is required to meet mandatory continuing education requirements, which are monitored by the Board. ABESPA also acts on behalf of consumers by investigating complaints, conducting hearings, and taking disciplinary action, when warranted, to ensure that quality Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology services are delivered.



### **Agency Commentary**

Granting and maintaining licenses and registrations for Speech-Language Pathologists, Speech Pathology Assistants, and Audiologists is an ongoing function of the Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology according to A.C.A. §17-100-101 et seq. The operations of the Board, which includes one full-time employee and one part-time extra help position, are funded from the receipt of fees charged by the Agency.

The Board is requesting additional appropriation to fund a new position for an Administrative Assistant. With passage of the Transparency Act, additional processes are necessary for complete compliance of this law. Over time, the total number of licensees has grown. Each additional license issued increases the amount of work required to maintain the orderly operation of the office. In addition, the present office manager is within a few years of retirement. The Board believes it is prudent to have another employee in place that is familiar with the operation of the office prior to her retirement. Income from fees together with the fund balance are more than adequate to support this addition.

All funds were moved to the State Treasury in Fiscal Year 2012.

## **Audit Findings**

DIVISION OF LEGISLATIVE AUDIT  
AUDIT OF :  
ARKANSAS BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2011

Findings	Recommendations
None	None

## **State Contracts Over \$25,000 Awarded To Minority Owned Businesses Fiscal Year 2012**

None

## **Employment Summary**

	Male	Female	Total	%
White Employees	0	1	1	100 %
Black Employees	0	0	0	0 %
Other Racial Minorities	0	0	0	0 %
Total Minorities			0	0 %
Total Employees			1	100 %

## Publications

### A.C.A. 25-1-204

Name	Statutory Authorization	Required for		# of Copies	Reason(s) for Continued Publication and Distribution
		Governor	General Assembly		
Consumer Information Brochure	ABESPA Rules & Regulations Section 1.8	N	N	300	Provided to all licensees for use in offices and clinics.
Licensure Directory	ABESPA Rules & Regulations Section 1.8	N	N	2,100	Required by rules and regulations for use by licensees and others

## Agency Position Usage Report

FY2010 - 2011						FY2011 - 2012					FY2012 - 2013						
Authorized in Act	Budgeted			Unbudgeted Total	% of Authorized Unused	Authorized in Act	Budgeted			Unbudgeted Total	% of Authorized Unused	Authorized in Act	Budgeted			Unbudgeted Total	% of Authorized Unused
	Filled	Unfilled	Total				Filled	Unfilled	Total				Filled	Unfilled	Total		
1	1	0	1	0	0.00 %	1	1	0	1	0	0.00 %	1	1	0	1	0	0.00 %

## **Analysis of Budget Request**

**Appropriation:** 97J - Treasury Cash

**Funding Sources:** NSA - Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology - Cash in Treasury

The Arkansas Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology was created by A.C.A. §17-100-201, to safeguard the public health, safety, and welfare by providing regulatory authority over persons offering Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology services to the citizens of Arkansas. The Board is a cash agency funded from application, examination and license renewal fees charged pursuant to A.C.A. § 17-100-206. In April 2012, the Board moved all cash funds from various banks to the State Treasury.

Base Level Regular Salaries and Personal Services Matching includes Career Service payments for eligible employees. Personal Services Matching also includes a \$20 increase in the monthly contribution for State employee's health insurance for a total State match per budgeted employee of \$410 per month. Base Level salaries and matching do not include appropriation for a Cost of Living Adjustment or Merit Pay Increases.

The Agency's Change Level request provides for Regular Salaries and Personal Services Matching of \$27,914 in both years of the 2013-2015 biennium for a new Administrative Specialist I position. This position will provide for compliance with the Transparency Act, increasing workload, and knowledge transfer for the one current employee who is approaching retirement.

The Executive Recommendation provides for Base Level. Expenditure of appropriation is contingent upon available funding.

## Appropriation Summary

**Appropriation:** 97J - Treasury Cash

**Funding Sources:** NSA - Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology - Cash in Treasury

### Historical Data

### Agency Request and Executive Recommendation

Commitment Item	2011-2012	2012-2013	2012-2013	2013-2014			2014-2015		
	Actual	Budget	Authorized	Base Level	Agency	Executive	Base Level	Agency	Executive
Regular Salaries 5010000	54,944	51,464	52,472	51,464	70,319	51,464	51,464	70,319	51,464
<b>#Positions</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
Extra Help 5010001	6,688	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
<b>#Extra Help</b>	<b>1</b>								
Personal Services Matching 5010003	16,822	16,404	15,585	16,678	25,737	16,678	16,678	25,737	16,678
Operating Expenses 5020002	42,159	47,516	47,516	47,516	47,516	47,516	47,516	47,516	47,516
Conference & Travel Expenses 5050009	1,391	3,250	3,250	3,250	3,250	3,250	3,250	3,250	3,250
Professional Fees 5060010	1,725	12,800	12,800	12,800	12,800	12,800	12,800	12,800	12,800
Data Processing 5090012	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Capital Outlay 5120011	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>123,729</b>	<b>137,434</b>	<b>137,623</b>	<b>137,708</b>	<b>165,622</b>	<b>137,708</b>	<b>137,708</b>	<b>165,622</b>	<b>137,708</b>

Funding Sources									
Fund Balance 4000005	854,156	951,123		993,689	993,689	993,689	1,035,981	1,008,067	1,035,981
Cash Fund 4000045	220,696	180,000		180,000	180,000	180,000	180,000	180,000	180,000
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>1,074,852</b>	<b>1,131,123</b>		<b>1,173,689</b>	<b>1,173,689</b>	<b>1,173,689</b>	<b>1,215,981</b>	<b>1,188,067</b>	<b>1,215,981</b>
Excess Appropriation/(Funding)	(951,123)	(993,689)		(1,035,981)	(1,008,067)	(1,035,981)	(1,078,273)	(1,022,445)	(1,078,273)
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>123,729</b>	<b>137,434</b>		<b>137,708</b>	<b>165,622</b>	<b>137,708</b>	<b>137,708</b>	<b>165,622</b>	<b>137,708</b>

The FY13 Budget amount in Personal Services Matching exceeds the authorized amount due to matching rate adjustments during the 2011-2013 biennium.

## Change Level by Appropriation

**Appropriation:** 97J - Treasury Cash

**Funding Sources:** NSA - Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology - Cash in Treasury

### Agency Request

Change Level		2013-2014	Pos	Cumulative	% of BL	2014-2015	Pos	Cumulative	% of BL
<b>BL</b>	<b>Base Level</b>	<b>137,708</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>137,708</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>137,708</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>137,708</b>	<b>100.0</b>
C01	Existing Program	27,914	1	165,622	120.3	27,914	1	165,622	120.3

### Executive Recommendation

Change Level		2013-2014	Pos	Cumulative	% of BL	2014-2015	Pos	Cumulative	% of BL
<b>BL</b>	<b>Base Level</b>	<b>137,708</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>137,708</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>137,708</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>137,708</b>	<b>100.0</b>
C01	Existing Program	0	0	137,708	100.0	0	0	137,708	100.0

### Justification

C01	The Board is requesting additional appropriation to fund a new position for an Administrative Assistant. With passage of the Transparency Act, additional processes are necessary for complete compliance of this law. Over time, the total number of licensees has grown. Each additional license issued increases the amount of work required to maintain the orderly operation of the office. In addition, the present office manager is within a few years of retirement. The Board believes it is prudent to have another employee in place that is familiar with the operation of the office prior to her retirement.
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