

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY & AUDIOLOGY

Enabling Laws

Act 190 of 2014
A.C.A. §17-100-101 *et seq.*

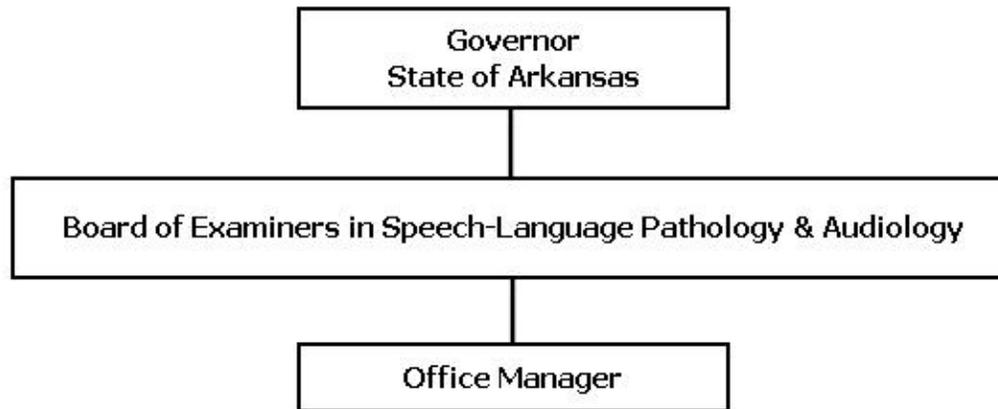
History and Organization

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. In 2013, Act 219 made amendments to various sections of the law involving Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology: §17-100-101 *et seq.*; sections §17-100-201 *et seq.*; and sections §17-100-301 *et seq.* 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 Base Level for the 2015-2017 Biennium.

Audit Findings

DIVISION OF LEGISLATIVE AUDIT
 AUDIT OF :
 ARKANSAS BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2013

Findings	Recommendations
None	None

State Contracts Over \$50,000 Awarded To Minority Owned Businesses Fiscal Year 2014

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. 25-1-201 et seq.

Name	Statutory Authorization	Required for		# of Copies	Reason(s) for Continued Publication and Distribution	Unbound Black & White Copies Produced During the Last Two Years	Cost of Unbound Copies Produced During the Last Two Years
		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.	0	0.00
Licensure Directory	ABESPA Rules & Regulations Section 1.8	N	N	2,100	Required by rules and regulations for use by licensees and others	0	0.00

Agency Position Usage Report

FY2012 - 2013					FY2013 - 2014					FY2014 - 2015							
Authorized in Act	Budgeted			Unbudgeted	% of Authorized Unused	Authorized in Act	Budgeted			Unbudgeted	% of Authorized Unused	Authorized in Act	Budgeted			Unbudgeted	% of Authorized Unused
	Filled	Unfilled	Total	Total			Filled	Unfilled	Total	Total			Filled	Unfilled	Total	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 include continuation of the previously authorized 2015 1% Cost of Living Adjustment and Career Service Payments for eligible employees. Personal Services Matching also includes a \$10 increase in the monthly contribution for State employee's health insurance for a total State match per budgeted employee of \$420 per month. Base Level salaries and matching do not include appropriation for Merit Pay Increases.

The Agency is requesting Base Level of \$140,096 for each year of the 2015-2017 Biennium.

The Executive Recommendation provides for Agency Request. 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		Historical Data			Agency Request and Executive Recommendation			Agency Request and Executive Recommendation		
		2013-2014 Actual	2014-2015 Budget	2014-2015 Authorized	2015-2016			2016-2017		
					Base Level	Agency	Executive	Base Level	Agency	Executive
Regular Salaries	5010000	54,288	52,479	52,479	53,096	53,096	53,096	53,096	53,096	53,096
#Positions		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Extra Help	5010001	5,418	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
#Extra Help		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Personal Services Matching	5010003	17,553	17,140	16,903	17,434	17,434	17,434	17,434	17,434	17,434
Operating Expenses	5020002	36,249	47,516	47,516	47,516	47,516	47,516	47,516	47,516	47,516
Conference & Travel Expenses	5050009	59	3,250	3,250	3,250	3,250	3,250	3,250	3,250	3,250
Professional Fees	5060010	2,164	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
Total		115,731	139,185	138,948	140,096	140,096	140,096	140,096	140,096	140,096

Funding Sources										
Fund Balance	4000005	1,007,252	1,140,055		1,248,184	1,248,184	1,248,184	1,355,402	1,355,402	1,355,402
Special Revenue	4000030	248,534	247,314		247,314	247,314	247,314	247,314	247,314	247,314
Total Funding		1,255,786	1,387,369		1,495,498	1,495,498	1,495,498	1,602,716	1,602,716	1,602,716
Excess Appropriation/(Funding)		(1,140,055)	(1,248,184)		(1,355,402)	(1,355,402)	(1,355,402)	(1,462,620)	(1,462,620)	(1,462,620)
Grand Total		115,731	139,185		140,096	140,096	140,096	140,096	140,096	140,096

FY15 budget amount in Personal Service Matching exceeds the authorized amount due to the matching rate adjustments during the 2013 - 2015 Biennium.