

# SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY & AUDIOLOGY

## Enabling Laws

Act 132 of 2016  
A.C.A. §17-100-101 et seq.

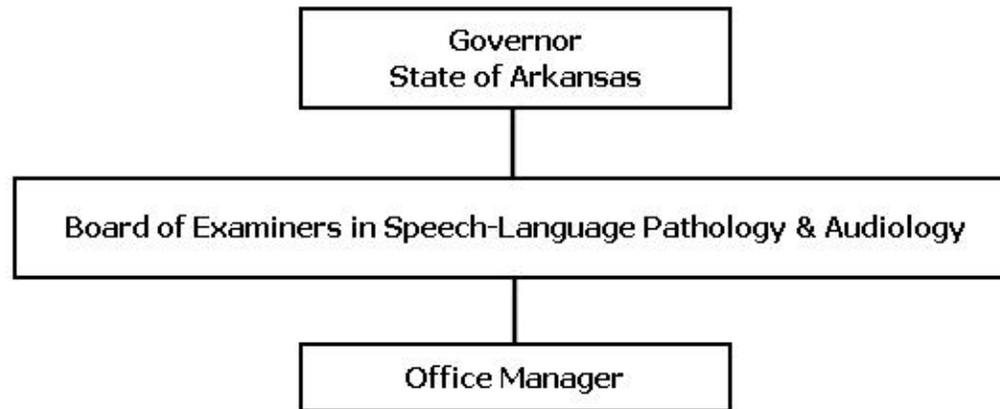
## History and Organization

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 September 26, 2015.

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**

The goal of the Arkansas Board of Examiners Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (ABESPA) is to create a safeguard for the public health and welfare of the citizens of Arkansas by granting and maintaining licenses for Speech-Language Pathologists, Speech-Language Pathology Assistants and Audiologists. The operation of the Board, which includes one full-time employee and one part time extra help position, are funded from the receipts of application, license renewal and other miscellaneous fees.

The Arkansas Board of Examiners Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology is requesting an increase in the Base Level for the 2017-2019 Biennium in Operating Expenses for a new desk and credenza, and appropriation for a new database and updated website. The current office furniture is over 10 years old and needs to be replaced. The current database is an old Apple product that is phasing out and does not have local support to help maintain it. The website was created over 10 years ago and is not user friendly. The updated website would allow ABESPA some control over making minor changes.

### **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 2016**

None

**Employment Summary**

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

FY2014 - 2015						FY2015 - 2016						FY2016 - 2017					
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 include the continuation of the previously authorized 2017 Salaries and Career Service Payments for eligible employees. Personal Services Matching includes 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 a Cost of Living Adjustment or Merit Pay Increases.

The Base Level request is for appropriation of \$127,080 each year of the 2017-2019 Biennium.

The Agency's Change Level request is for appropriation of \$58,000 each year and includes the following:

- Operating Expenses increases of \$3,000 each year for new office furniture.
- A new appropriation with \$55,000 in appropriation each year for a new licensing database and updated website.

The Technology related requests are documented in the Agency's Information Technology (IT) Plan (page 11).

The Executive Recommendation provides for the 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		
		2015-2016 Actual	2016-2017 Budget	2016-2017 Authorized	2017-2018			2018-2019		
					Base Level	Agency	Executive	Base Level	Agency	Executive
Regular Salaries	5010000	85,235	42,385	53,096	42,385	42,385	42,385	42,385	42,385	42,385
<b>#Positions</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
Extra Help	5010001	1,050	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
<b>#Extra Help</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
Personal Services Matching	5010003	20,972	14,887	17,434	15,129	15,129	15,129	15,129	15,129	15,129
Operating Expenses	5020002	41,965	47,516	47,516	47,516	50,516	50,516	47,516	50,516	50,516
Conference & Travel Expenses	5050009	0	3,250	3,250	3,250	3,250	3,250	3,250	3,250	3,250
Professional Fees	5060010	175	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
Licensing Database	5900046	0	0	0	0	55,000	55,000	0	55,000	55,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>149,397</b>	<b>126,838</b>	<b>140,096</b>	<b>127,080</b>	<b>185,080</b>	<b>185,080</b>	<b>127,080</b>	<b>185,080</b>	<b>185,080</b>

Funding Sources										
Fund Balance	4000005	1,208,523	1,362,601		1,510,763	1,510,763	1,510,763	1,658,683	1,600,683	1,600,683
Special Revenue	4000030	303,475	275,000		275,000	275,000	275,000	275,000	275,000	275,000
<b>Total Funding</b>		<b>1,511,998</b>	<b>1,637,601</b>		<b>1,785,763</b>	<b>1,785,763</b>	<b>1,785,763</b>	<b>1,933,683</b>	<b>1,875,683</b>	<b>1,875,683</b>
Excess Appropriation/(Funding)		(1,362,601)	(1,510,763)		(1,658,683)	(1,600,683)	(1,600,683)	(1,806,603)	(1,690,603)	(1,690,603)
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>149,397</b>	<b>126,838</b>		<b>127,080</b>	<b>185,080</b>	<b>185,080</b>	<b>127,080</b>	<b>185,080</b>	<b>185,080</b>

FY16 Actual amounts in Regular Salaries and Personal Services Matching exceed the FY17 Budget amount due to a leave payout for a retiring employee.

## Change Level by Appropriation

**Appropriation:** 97J - Treasury Cash

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

### Agency Request

Change Level		2017-2018	Pos	Cumulative	% of BL	2018-2019	Pos	Cumulative	% of BL
<b>BL</b>	<b>Base Level</b>	<b>127,080</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>127,080</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>127,080</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>127,080</b>	<b>100.0</b>
C01	Existing Program	3,000	0	130,080	102.4	3,000	0	130,080	102.4
C08	Technology	55,000	0	185,080	145.6	55,000	0	185,080	145.6

### Executive Recommendation

Change Level		2017-2018	Pos	Cumulative	% of BL	2018-2019	Pos	Cumulative	% of BL
<b>BL</b>	<b>Base Level</b>	<b>127,080</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>127,080</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>127,080</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>127,080</b>	<b>100.0</b>
C01	Existing Program	3,000	0	130,080	102.4	3,000	0	130,080	102.4
C08	Technology	55,000	0	185,080	145.6	55,000	0	185,080	145.6

### Justification

C01	The Agency is requesting an increase in Operating Expenses for new office furniture. The current office furniture is over 10 years old and needs to be replaced.
C08	The Agency is requesting appropriation for a new licensing database and updated website. The current database is an old Apple product that is phasing out and does not have local support to help maintain it. The website was created over 10 years ago and is not user friendly. The updated website would allow ABESPA some control over making minor changes.