

## HOUSE BILL NO. 384

INTRODUCED BY J. LYNCH, B. EDWARDS, J. ISALY, M. LEE, P. STRAND, J. SECKINGER, B. CLOSE, S. FYANT, J. SOOKTIS, M. CUNNINGHAM, E. BUTTREY, E. MATTHEWS, T. RUNNING WOLF, F. SMITH, D. BAUM, B. CARTER, J. COHENOUR, D. HAWK, C. KEOGH, K. KORTUM, M. ROMANO, E. STAFMAN, M. MARLER, S. DEMAROIS

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING THE DATES TO APPLY FOR A SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST OR AUDIOLOGIST LICENSE; AMENDING SECTION 37-15-303, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**Section 1.** Section 37-15-303, MCA, is amended to read:

**"37-15-303. Qualifications.** (1) To be eligible for licensing by the board as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist, the applicant:

(a) must meet the current academic, supervised clinical practicum, and supervised professional experience requirements as defined by board rule; and

(b) shall pass an examination approved by the board.

(2) (a) To be eligible for licensing by the board as a speech-language pathology assistant or an audiology assistant, the applicant:

(i) must have completed the academic requirements as defined by board rule; or

(ii) shall provide evidence to the board that the applicant served as an unlicensed speech-language pathology assistant or an unlicensed audiology assistant sufficient to meet the requirements in subsection (2)(a)(i) for a period prior to ~~January 1, 2024~~ July 15, 2025.

(b) The board shall provide by rule the type of evidence and conditions to meet equivalency for current academic experience.

(c) Licensure for speech-language pathology assistants qualifying under subsection (2)(a)(ii) must be retroactive to the date in which the board rules establishing equivalency were satisfied.

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