



**Colorado  
Legislative  
Council  
Staff**

**SB17-108**

**FINAL  
FISCAL NOTE**

**FISCAL IMPACT:**  State  Local  Statutory Public Entity  Conditional  No Fiscal Impact

**Drafting Number:** LLS 17-0304  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Sen. Crowder  
Rep. Buckner

**Date:** June 13, 2017  
**Bill Status:** Signed into Law  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Clare Pramuk (303-866-2677)

**BILL TOPIC:** SUNSET SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY PRACTICE ACT

<b>Fiscal Impact Summary</b>	<b>FY 2017-2018</b>	<b>FY 2018-2019</b>
<b>State Revenue</b>		<b><u>\$79,000</u></b>
<i>Continuing revenue</i>		
Cash Funds		79,000
<b>State Expenditures</b>		<b><u>\$78,840</u></b>
<i>Continuing expenditures</i>		
Cash Funds		78,840
<b>FTE Position Change</b>		0.3 FTE
<b>Appropriation Required:</b> None.		
<b>Future Year Impacts:</b> Ongoing revenue and expenditure increase.		

**Summary of Legislation**

This bill continues the regulation of speech-language pathologists by the Director the Division of Professions and Occupations in the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) from September 1, 2017, when the program is currently set to expire, to September 1, 2022. The bill removes the requirement that an applicant for certification or provisional certification as a speech-language pathologist pass a national exam adopted by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and requires the division director to adopt appropriate examination and clinical fellowships. A person is also allowed to practice speech-language pathology under a special services license issued by the Department of Education.

**Background**

Speech-language pathologists work to prevent, assess, diagnose, and treat speech, language, social communication, cognitive-communication, and swallowing disorders in children and adults. Speech-language pathologists who practice in schools are regulated by the Department of Education and all others are certified by the Director of the Division of Professions and Occupations. As of FY 2015-16, there were 2,255 active director-certified speech-language pathologists. As of August 2016, the director had issued 164 provisional certifications to those who have not yet completed all of the certification requirements. Current fees are \$145 for an original license and \$5 for a renewal.

### **Fiscal Impact of Programs Set to Expire**

This bill continues a program in the Division of Professions and Occupations in DORA that is set to repeal effective September 1, 2017. Under current law, state agencies may be appropriated funds to wind up the affairs of an expiring program for 12 months following the repeal date. There is no need for an appropriation of the \$78,840 base funding in FY 2017-18, since the program's authorization has not yet expired, and ongoing funding for the program is included in DORA's base budget request for FY 2017-18.

### **State Revenue**

By continuing the regulation of speech-language pathologists, the bill increases cash fund revenue in the Division of Professions and Occupations by \$79,000 in FY 2018-19, deposited into the Division of Professions and Occupations Cash Fund. This revenue represents a continuation of existing revenue to the program.

### **TABOR**

Because the Legislative Council Staff revenue forecast already accounts for continued revenue from fees from speech-language pathologists, the continuing revenue generated by this bill does not require an adjustment to the amount required to be set aside in the budget for TABOR refunds.

### **State Expenditures**

By continuing the regulation of speech-language pathologists, the bill increases expenditures in the Division of Professions and Occupations by \$78,840 and 0.3 FTE in FY 2018-19, paid from the Division of Professions and Occupations Cash Fund. These costs represent the continuation of the program beyond its current repeal date and the subsequent wind-up period.

### **Effective Date**

The bill was signed into law by the Governor on April 24, 2017, and takes effect August 9, 2017, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

### **State and Local Government Contacts**

Information Technology

Law

Regulatory Agencies