

**First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 25-0631.01 Brita Darling x2241

HOUSE BILL 25-1075

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Sander and Phillips, Hartsook, Velasco

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House Committees
Business Affairs & Labor

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING REGULATION OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY**
102 **ASSISTANTS.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

Beginning January 1, 2026, the bill authorizes the certification of an individual as a speech-language pathology assistant (SLPA). The director of the division of professions and occupations (director) in the department of regulatory agencies (DORA) may certify an applicant if the applicant demonstrates that the applicant has a bachelor's degree in speech communication, speech-language pathology, or a related field and

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.*

has completed an SLPA program and a clinical practicum.

An SLPA shall practice speech-language pathology only in collaboration with and under the direction and supervision of a certified speech-language pathologist (SLP). The bill establishes requirements and guidelines for an SLP supervising an SLPA.

The bill prohibits an SLPA from engaging in certain speech-language pathology tasks, such as the diagnosis of patients and preparation of a treatment plan.

An SLPA is required to complete 10 hours of continuing education each year and is subject to discipline by the director for violations of statutes governing the practice of speech-language pathology by an SLPA.

The bill repeals SLPA certification on September 1, 2033, subject to sunset review by DORA.

The bill makes conforming amendments, including clarifying that a school SLPA authorized by the department of education to practice in schools is not automatically a DORA-certified SLPA and must apply for DORA certification.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-20-404, **amend**
3 (1)(d)(II)(L) and (3)(a)(II)(N) as follows:

4 **12-20-404. Disciplinary actions - regulator powers -**
5 **disposition of fines - mistreatment of at-risk adult - exceptions -**
6 **definitions. (1) General disciplinary authority.** If a regulator
7 determines that an applicant, licensee, certificate holder, or registrant has
8 committed an act or engaged in conduct that constitutes grounds for
9 discipline or unprofessional conduct under a part or article of this title 12
10 governing the particular profession or occupation, the regulator may:

11 (d) (II) A regulator is not authorized under this subsection (1)(d)
12 to refuse to renew the license, certification, or registration of a licensee,
13 certificate holder, or registrant regulated under the following:

14 (L) Article 305 of this title 12 concerning speech-language
15 pathologists AND SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANTS; or

1 (3) **Waiting period after revocation or surrender.** (a) (II) In
2 addition, the waiting period specified in subsection (3)(a)(I) of this
3 section applies when a person regulated under any of the following
4 articles surrenders a license, certification, or registration to avoid
5 discipline:

6 (N) Article 305 of this title 12 concerning speech-language
7 pathologists AND SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANTS; and

8 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-20-407, **amend**
9 (1)(b)(V) as follows:

10 **12-20-407. Unauthorized practice of profession or occupation**
11 **- penalties - exclusions.** (1) (b) A person commits a class 2 misdemeanor
12 and shall be punished as provided in section 18-1.3-501 if the person
13 engages in any of the following activities:

14 (V) Practices or offers or attempts to practice speech-language
15 pathology without an active certification issued under article 305 of this
16 title 12 FOR SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS OR SPEECH-LANGUAGE
17 PATHOLOGY ASSISTANTS, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 12-305-104;

18 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-30-102, **amend**
19 (3)(a)(XX) as follows:

20 **12-30-102. Medical transparency act of 2010 - disclosure of**
21 **information about health-care providers - fines - rules - short title -**
22 **legislative declaration - review of functions - definition - repeal.**

23 (3) (a) As used in this section, "applicant" means a person applying for
24 a new, active license, certification, or registration or to renew, reinstate,
25 or reactivate an active license, certification, or registration to practice:

26 (XX) AS A speech-language PATHOLOGIST OR A
27 SPEECH-LANGUAGE pathology ASSISTANT pursuant to article 305 of this

1 title 12;

2 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-305-102, **amend**
3 (1) introductory portion and (2); and **add** (1)(c.5) and (1)(c.6) as follows:

4 **12-305-102. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
5 **hereby** finds, determines, and declares that:

6 (c.5) SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANTS ENHANCE THE
7 EFFICIENCY AND EXTENT OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY SERVICES BY
8 PROVIDING SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY SERVICES IN COLLABORATION
9 WITH AND UNDER THE DIRECTION AND SUPERVISION OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE
10 PATHOLOGISTS, AND WILL HELP ADDRESS THE CRITICAL SHORTAGE OF
11 SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY SERVICES IN THE STATE;

12 (c.6) A SCHOOL SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT WHO
13 IS AUTHORIZED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ASSIST LICENSED
14 SCHOOL SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS IN SCHOOLS MAY APPLY FOR
15 CERTIFICATION UNDER THIS ARTICLE 305 TO BECOME A CERTIFIED
16 SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO ASSIST
17 CERTIFIED SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS WHO PRACTICE OUTSIDE OF
18 THE SCHOOL SETTING; AND

19 (2) The general assembly further determines that it is the purpose
20 of this article 305 to:

21 (a) (I) Regulate ~~persons~~ INDIVIDUALS who are representing or
22 holding themselves out as speech-language pathologists or who are
23 performing services that constitute speech-language pathology; and

24 (II) REGULATE INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE REPRESENTING OR HOLDING
25 THEMSELVES OUT AS SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANTS OR WHO
26 ARE PERFORMING SERVICES THAT CONSTITUTE SPEECH-LANGUAGE
27 PATHOLOGY; AND

1 (b) Exclude from regulation under this article 305 those school
2 speech-language pathologists, INCLUDING SCHOOL SPEECH-LANGUAGE
3 PATHOLOGY ASSISTANTS, who are paid solely by an administrative unit or
4 state-operated program.

5 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-305-104, **amend**
6 (2) and (3); and **add** (1.3), (1.4), (1.5), (2.5), (4.5), and (6) as follows:

7 **12-305-104. Definitions.** As used in this article 305, unless the
8 context otherwise requires:

9 (1.3) "CERTIFICATE HOLDER" MEANS A SPEECH-LANGUAGE
10 PATHOLOGIST OR A SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT, CERTIFIED
11 PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-305-107.

12 (1.4) "CERTIFIED" MEANS CERTIFIED BY THE DIRECTOR PURSUANT
13 TO THIS ARTICLE 305.

14 (1.5) "DIRECTION AND SUPERVISION" MEANS, WITH RESPECT TO A
15 SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT, DIRECTION AND SUPERVISION
16 BY A SUPERVISING SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST IN ACCORDANCE WITH
17 THE REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN SECTION 12-305-111.5.

18 (2) "School speech-language pathologist" means ~~a person~~ AN
19 INDIVIDUAL licensed by the department of education to provide
20 speech-language pathology services that are paid for by an administrative
21 unit or a state-operated program. ~~"School speech-language pathologist"~~
22 ~~includes a school speech-language pathology assistant authorized by the~~
23 ~~department of education pursuant to section 22-60.5-111(10) to provide~~
24 ~~speech-language pathology services that are paid for by an administrative~~
25 ~~unit or a state-operated program.~~

26 (2.5) "SCHOOL SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT"
27 MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL AUTHORIZED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

1 PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-60.5-111 (10) TO ASSIST A SCHOOL
2 SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST IN PROVIDING SPEECH-LANGUAGE
3 PATHOLOGY SERVICES THAT ARE PAID FOR BY AN ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT
4 OR A STATE-OPERATED PROGRAM.

5 (3) "Speech-language pathologist" or "~~certificate holder~~" means
6 ~~a person~~ A SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST certified to practice
7 speech-language pathology under this article 305.

8 (4.5) "SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT" MEANS AN
9 INDIVIDUAL WHO IS CERTIFIED PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE 305 AND WHO
10 ASSISTS IN THE PRACTICE OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY IN
11 COLLABORATION WITH AND UNDER THE DIRECTION AND SUPERVISION OF
12 A CERTIFIED SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST PURSUANT TO SECTION
13 12-305-111.5.

14 (6) "SUPERVISING SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST" OR
15 "SUPERVISOR" MEANS A CERTIFIED SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST WHO
16 IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DIRECTION AND SUPERVISION OF A CERTIFIED
17 SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT PURSUANT TO SECTION
18 12-305-111.5.

19 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-305-105, **amend**
20 (1); and **add** (3) as follows:

21 **12-305-105. Use of titles restricted.** (1) Only ~~a person~~ AN
22 INDIVIDUAL WHO IS required to be and ~~who~~ is certified PURSUANT TO THIS
23 ARTICLE 305 as a speech-language pathologist ~~under this article 305~~ or IS
24 licensed by the ~~Colorado~~ department of education to provide
25 speech-language pathology services may advertise as or use the title
26 "speech-language pathologist", "speech pathologist", "speech therapist",
27 "speech correctionist", "speech clinician", "language pathologist", "voice

1 therapist", "voice pathologist", "aphasiologist", or any other generally
2 accepted terms, letters, or figures that indicate that the ~~person~~ INDIVIDUAL
3 is a certified speech-language pathologist OR A LICENSED
4 SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST.

5 (3) ONLY AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS REQUIRED TO BE AND IS
6 CERTIFIED PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE 305 AS A SPEECH-LANGUAGE
7 PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT OR IS AUTHORIZED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF
8 EDUCATION AS A SCHOOL SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT MAY
9 ADVERTISE AS OR USE THE TITLE "SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY
10 ASSISTANT" OR ANY OTHER GENERALLY ACCEPTED TERMS, LETTERS, OR
11 FIGURES THAT INDICATE THAT THE INDIVIDUAL IS A CERTIFIED
12 SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT OR AN AUTHORIZED SCHOOL
13 SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT.

14 **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-305-106, **amend**
15 (1) as follows:

16 **12-305-106. Certification required - exception.** (1) Except as
17 otherwise provided in this article 305, ~~on and after July 1, 2013, a person~~
18 ~~shall not practice~~ AN INDIVIDUAL WHO PRACTICES speech-language
19 pathology or ~~represent or hold himself or herself out~~ REPRESENTS OR
20 HOLDS THEMSELF OUT as being able to practice speech-language
21 pathology in this state ~~without possessing~~ MUST:

22 (a) POSSESS a valid certification AS A SPEECH-LANGUAGE
23 PATHOLOGIST issued by the director in accordance with this article 305
24 and any rules adopted under this article 305 or a special services license
25 issued by the department of education pursuant to section 22-60.5-210;
26 OR

27 (b) ON AND AFTER JANUARY 1, 2026, POSSESS A VALID

1 CERTIFICATION AS A SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT ISSUED
2 BY THE DIRECTOR IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS ARTICLE 305 AND ANY
3 RULES ADOPTED UNDER THIS ARTICLE 305 OR BE AUTHORIZED BY THE
4 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AS A SCHOOL SPEECH-LANGUAGE
5 PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT.

6 **SECTION 8.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-305-107, **amend**
7 (1), (2), and (4)(b) as follows:

8 **12-305-107. Certification - speech-language pathologist -**
9 **speech-language pathology assistant - application - qualifications -**
10 **certification by endorsement - renewal - fees - rules.**

11 (1)(a) **Educational and experiential requirements.** Every applicant for
12 a certification as a speech-language pathologist must have:

13 ~~(a)~~ (I) Successfully completed a master's or higher degree in
14 communication sciences and disorders granted by an accredited
15 institution of higher education recognized by the United States
16 department of education;

17 ~~(b)~~ (II) Successfully completed a speech-language pathology
18 clinical fellowship approved by the director, as documented by the
19 supervising clinician or a national certifying body approved by the
20 director; and

21 ~~(c)~~ (III) Passed the appropriate examination and clinical
22 fellowships adopted by the director.

23 (b) EVERY APPLICANT FOR CERTIFICATION AS A SPEECH-LANGUAGE
24 PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT MUST HAVE:

25 (I) SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED A BACHELOR'S OR HIGHER DEGREE
26 IN SPEECH COMMUNICATION, SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY, OR
27 COMMUNICATION DISORDERS AND SPEECH SCIENCES OR A BACHELOR'S

1 DEGREE IN ANY OTHER FIELD, WITH TWENTY-FOUR SEMESTER HOURS IN
2 SPEECH-LANGUAGE HEARING SCIENCES, GRANTED BY AN ACCREDITED
3 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION;

4 (II) SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED A SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY
5 ASSISTANT PROGRAM OR ITS EQUIVALENT, AS DETERMINED BY THE
6 DIRECTOR BY RULE; AND

7 (III) SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED A SUPERVISED CLINICAL
8 PRACTICUM TOTALING AT LEAST ONE HUNDRED DIRECT HOURS UNDER THE
9 SUPERVISION OF A SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST.

10 (2) **Application.** When an applicant has fulfilled the requirements
11 of subsection (1) of this section, the applicant may apply for certification
12 in the manner required by the director. The applicant shall submit an
13 application fee with the application in an amount determined by the
14 director. Additionally, if ~~the~~ AN applicant FOR SPEECH-LANGUAGE
15 PATHOLOGIST CERTIFICATION will provide speech-language pathology
16 services to patients, the applicant shall submit to the director proof that
17 the applicant has purchased and is maintaining or is covered by
18 professional liability insurance in an amount determined by the director
19 by rule.

20 (4) **Certification by endorsement.** (b) If ~~the~~ A
21 SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY applicant will provide speech-language
22 pathology services to patients, the applicant shall submit to the director
23 proof that the applicant has purchased and is maintaining or is covered by
24 professional liability insurance in an amount determined by the director
25 by rule.

26 **SECTION 9.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-305-109, **amend**
27 (1)(a), (1)(b) introductory portion, (1)(b)(I), (3), (4), and (5); and **add**

1 (2.5) as follows:

2 **12-305-109. Continuing professional competency - rules -**

3 **definition.** (1) (a) A speech-language pathologist AND A
4 SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT shall EACH maintain
5 continuing professional competency to practice.

6 (b) The director shall establish a continuing professional
7 competency program FOR SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS AND FOR
8 SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANTS that includes, at a minimum,
9 the following elements:

10 (I) A self-assessment of the knowledge and skills of a
11 speech-language pathologist OR A SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY
12 ASSISTANT seeking to renew or reinstate a certification;

13 (2.5) THE DIRECTOR SHALL ESTABLISH THAT A SPEECH-LANGUAGE
14 PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT SATISFIES THE CONTINUING COMPETENCY
15 REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION IF THE SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY
16 ASSISTANT COMPLETES TEN CLOCK HOURS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION
17 ACTIVITIES, ANNUALLY, THAT ARE APPROVED BY THE DIRECTOR.

18 (3) (a) ~~After the program is established,~~ A speech-language
19 pathologist AND A SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT shall EACH
20 satisfy the requirements of the CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCY
21 program in order to renew or reinstate a certification to practice
22 speech-language pathology.

23 (b) The requirements of this section apply to individual
24 speech-language pathologists AND SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY
25 ASSISTANTS, and nothing in this section requires a person ~~who~~ THAT
26 employs or contracts with a speech-language pathologist OR A
27 SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT to comply with this section.

1 (4) Records of assessments or other documentation developed or
2 submitted in connection with the continuing professional competency
3 program are confidential and not subject to inspection by the public or
4 discovery in connection with a civil action against a speech-language
5 pathologist, A SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT, or other
6 professional regulated under this title 12. A person or the director shall
7 not use the records or documents unless used by the director to determine
8 whether a speech-language pathologist OR A SPEECH-LANGUAGE
9 PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT is maintaining continuing professional
10 competency to engage in the profession.

11 (5) As used in this section, "continuing professional competency"
12 means the ongoing ability of a speech-language pathologist OR A
13 SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT to learn, integrate, and apply
14 the knowledge, skill, and judgment to practice as a speech-language
15 pathologist OR A SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT according to
16 generally accepted standards and professional ethical standards FOR THE
17 RESPECTIVE CERTIFICATIONS.

18 **SECTION 10.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-305-110, **amend**
19 (1)(a), (1)(d), and (2)(a); and **add** (1)(c.5) and (4) as follows:

20 **12-305-110. Scope of article - exclusions - rules.** (1) This article
21 305 does not prevent or restrict the practice, services, or activities of:

22 (a) A school speech-language pathologist OR AN AUTHORIZED
23 SCHOOL SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT whose compensation
24 for speech-language pathology services is paid solely by an administrative
25 unit or state-operated program;

26 (c.5) AN INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATING IN A SPEECH-LANGUAGE
27 PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT PROGRAM OR ITS EQUIVALENT, AS DETERMINED BY

1 THE DIRECTOR BY RULE, IF THE INDIVIDUAL IS DESIGNATED BY A TITLE
2 THAT CLEARLY INDICATES THE INDIVIDUAL'S STATUS AS A STUDENT AND
3 IF THE INDIVIDUAL ACTS UNDER APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTION AND
4 SUPERVISION;

5 (d) ~~A person~~ AN INDIVIDUAL participating in good faith in a
6 clinical fellowship if the experience constitutes a part of the experience
7 necessary to meet the requirement of section ~~12-305-107(1)~~ **12-305-107**
8 **(1)(a)(II)** and the ~~person~~ INDIVIDUAL acts under appropriate supervision;

9 (2) Nothing in this article 305 requires or allows the department
10 of education, the department of health care policy and financing, or any
11 other state department to adopt or apply the standards contained in this
12 article 305:

13 (a) As the standards for endorsing or otherwise authorizing school
14 speech-language pathologists OR SCHOOL SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY
15 ASSISTANTS to provide speech-language pathology services that are paid
16 for by an administrative unit or state-operated program; or

17 (4) NOTHING IN THIS ARTICLE 305 AUTOMATICALLY CONFERS
18 CERTIFICATION UNDER THIS ARTICLE 305 ON A SCHOOL SPEECH-LANGUAGE
19 PATHOLOGIST OR A SCHOOL SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT
20 DUE TO LICENSURE OR AUTHORIZATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF
21 EDUCATION. EACH SCHOOL SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST AND EACH
22 SCHOOL SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT MUST APPLY FOR
23 CERTIFICATION UNDER THIS ARTICLE 305 IN ORDER TO BE CERTIFIED AS A
24 SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST OR A SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY
25 ASSISTANT UNDER THIS ARTICLE 305.

26 **SECTION 11.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 12-305-111
27 as follows:

1 **12-305-111. Limitations on authority - limitations specific to**
2 **speech-language pathology assistants.** (1) Nothing in this article 305
3 authorizes a speech-language pathologist OR A SPEECH-LANGUAGE
4 PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT to engage in the practice of medicine, as defined
5 in section 12-240-107; dentistry, as defined in sections 12-220-104 (6)
6 and 12-220-305; or any other profession for which licensure, certification,
7 or registration is required, EXCEPT AS AUTHORIZED by this article 305.

8 (2) NOTHING IN THIS ARTICLE 305 AUTHORIZES A
9 SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT TO PRACTICE
10 SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY UNLESS THE SPEECH-LANGUAGE
11 PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT PRACTICES UNDER THE DIRECTION AND
12 SUPERVISION OF A SUPERVISING SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST.

13 (3) A SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT SHALL NOT:

14 (a) REPRESENT THEMSELF AS A SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST;

15 (b) INTERPRET ASSESSMENT TOOLS FOR THE PURPOSE OF
16 DIAGNOSING DISABILITY OR DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY OR QUALIFICATION
17 FOR SERVICES;

18 (c) ADMINISTER OR INTERPRET FEEDING OR SWALLOWING
19 SCREENINGS, CHECKLISTS, OR ASSESSMENTS;

20 (d) DIAGNOSE COMMUNICATION AND FEEDING OR SWALLOWING
21 DISORDERS;

22 (e) DEVELOP OR DETERMINE THE FEEDING AND SWALLOWING
23 STRATEGIES OR PRECAUTIONS FOR PATIENTS;

24 (f) DISCLOSE CLINICAL OR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION,
25 INCLUDING DIAGNOSES, SERVICES PROVIDED, OR RESPONSE TO
26 TREATMENT, EITHER ORALLY OR IN WRITING, TO INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE
27 NOT BEEN APPROVED BY THE SUPERVISING SPEECH-LANGUAGE

- 1 PATHOLOGIST TO RECEIVE INFORMATION, UNLESS MANDATED BY LAW;
- 2 (g) WRITE, DEVELOP, OR MODIFY A PATIENT'S PLAN OF CARE IN
- 3 ANY WAY;
- 4 (h) MAKE REFERRALS FOR ADDITIONAL SERVICES;
- 5 (i) SELECT AUGMENTATIVE AND ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION
- 6 SYSTEMS OR DEVICES;
- 7 (j) TREAT MEDICALLY FRAGILE PATIENTS WITHOUT CONTINUOUS,
- 8 DIRECT SUPERVISION BY A SUPERVISING SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST,
- 9 WHICH MAY INCLUDE SYNCHRONOUS OR LIVE TELESUPERVISION;
- 10 (k) PERFORM PROCEDURES THAT REQUIRE SPECIALIZED
- 11 KNOWLEDGE AND TRAINING, INCLUDING VOCAL TRACT PROSTHESIS
- 12 SHAPING OR FITTING OR VOCAL TRACT IMAGING;
- 13 (l) PROVIDE INPUT IN CARE CONFERENCES, CASE CONFERENCES, OR
- 14 INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM MEETINGS WITHOUT THE PRESENCE OR PRIOR
- 15 APPROVAL OF THE SUPERVISING SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST OR
- 16 OTHER DESIGNATED SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST;
- 17 (m) PROVIDE INTERPRETATIVE INFORMATION TO A PATIENT OR
- 18 OTHERS REGARDING THE PATIENT'S STATUS OR SERVICE; OR
- 19 (n) SIGN OR INITIAL ANY FORMAL DOCUMENTS, INCLUDING PLANS
- 20 OF CARE, REIMBURSEMENT FORMS, OR REPORTS, THAT ARE NOT ALSO
- 21 SIGNED BY THE SUPERVISING SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST.

22 **SECTION 12.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 12-305-111.5
23 as follows:

24 **12-305-111.5. Direction and supervision of speech-language**
25 **pathology assistants by speech-language pathologists - definitions.**

26 (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
27 REQUIRES:

1 (a) "DIRECT SUPERVISION" MEANS IN-VIEW OBSERVATION AND
2 GUIDANCE BY A SUPERVISING SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST WHILE THE
3 SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT IS PERFORMING A CLINICAL
4 ACTIVITY. "DIRECT SUPERVISION" MAY INCLUDE THE SUPERVISING
5 SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST COMMUNICATING WITH THE
6 SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT VIA TELECOMMUNICATION
7 TECHNOLOGY DURING THE SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT'S
8 PROVISION OF CLINICAL SERVICES.

9 (b) "INDIRECT SUPERVISION" MEANS SUPERVISION DURING WHICH
10 A SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST IS NOT REQUIRED TO BE PHYSICALLY
11 PRESENT OR AVAILABLE VIA TELECOMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY WHILE
12 THE SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT IS PROVIDING SERVICES.
13 "INDIRECT SUPERVISION" MAY INCLUDE:

- 14 (I) REVIEWING DEMONSTRATION VIDEOS;
- 15 (II) REVIEWING PATIENT FILES;
- 16 (III) REVIEWING AND EVALUATING AUDIO OR VIDEO RECORDED
17 SESSIONS; OR
- 18 (IV) CONDUCTING SUPERVISORY CONFERENCES EITHER IN PERSON
19 OR VIA TELEPHONE OR IN LIVE, SECURE VIRTUAL MEETINGS.

20 (2) A SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT SHALL PRACTICE
21 SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ONLY IN COLLABORATION WITH AND
22 UNDER THE DIRECTION AND SUPERVISION OF A SPEECH-LANGUAGE
23 PATHOLOGIST.

24 (3) A SUPERVISING SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST IS
25 RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DIRECTION AND SUPERVISION OF A
26 SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT'S PRACTICE OF
27 SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY. THE LEVEL OF SUPERVISION MUST BE

1 BASED ON THE NEEDS, COMPETENCIES, SKILLS, EXPECTATIONS,
2 PHILOSOPHIES, AND EXPERIENCE OF THE SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY
3 ASSISTANT AND THE SUPERVISOR; THE NEEDS OF THE PATIENT SERVED; THE
4 SERVICE SETTING; THE TASKS ASSIGNED; AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT
5 FACTORS. THE SUPERVISING SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST IS
6 RESPONSIBLE FOR DESIGNING AND IMPLEMENTING A WRITTEN
7 SUPERVISORY PLAN TO OUTLINE THE PRACTICES OF THE SUPERVISING
8 SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST AND TO DOCUMENT PROGRESS. A
9 SUPERVISOR SHALL NOT ASSIGN TASKS TO A SPEECH-LANGUAGE
10 PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT THAT ARE BEYOND THE LEVEL OF COMPETENCE OF
11 THE SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT OR THAT ARE BEYOND
12 THE SCOPE OF A SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT'S PRACTICE.
13 THE CARE OF THE PATIENT REMAINS THE SUPERVISING SPEECH-LANGUAGE
14 PATHOLOGIST'S RESPONSIBILITY.

15 (4) A SUPERVISING SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST SHALL
16 DETERMINE THE APPROPRIATE NUMBER OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY
17 ASSISTANTS WHOSE PRACTICE MAY BE SUPERVISED, WITH A
18 RECOMMENDED NUMBER FOR SUPERVISION OF NO MORE THAN THREE
19 FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANTS PER
20 SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST. THE FACTORS TO CONSIDER IN
21 DETERMINING SUPERVISION RATIOS INCLUDE CASELOAD
22 CHARACTERISTICS, THE SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT'S
23 EXPERIENCE, AND THE SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST'S EXPERIENCE
24 AND WORKLOAD.

25 (5) BEFORE A SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT BEGINS
26 TO PROVIDE INDEPENDENT SUPPORT TO A PATIENT, THE SUPERVISING
27 SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST SHALL INITIATE FIRST CONTACT WITH

1 THE PATIENT AND PREPARE A PLAN OF CARE FOR THE PATIENT. AFTER THE
2 ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SUPERVISORY RELATIONSHIP, MINIMUM ONGOING
3 SUPERVISION MUST INCLUDE DOCUMENTATION OF DIRECT SUPERVISION
4 PROVIDED BY THE SUPERVISOR FOR EACH PATIENT AT LEAST EVERY THIRTY
5 TO SIXTY DAYS, DEPENDING ON THE FREQUENCY OF THE SESSIONS AND
6 SETTING, AND THE SUPERVISOR SHALL REVIEW PATIENT DATA. THE
7 SUPERVISOR SHALL ADJUST THE AMOUNT OF SUPERVISION BASED ON THE
8 SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT'S COMPETENCIES AND SKILL
9 LEVEL IN TREATING PATIENTS WHO HAVE A VARIETY OF COMMUNICATION
10 DISORDERS. THE SUPERVISING SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST SHALL
11 ACCURATELY DOCUMENT AND REGULARLY RECORD ALL SUPERVISORY
12 ACTIVITIES, FOR BOTH DIRECT AND INDIRECT SUPERVISION. FOR
13 MEDICALLY FRAGILE PATIENTS, THE SUPERVISOR SHALL PROVIDE ONE
14 HUNDRED PERCENT DIRECT SUPERVISION OF THE SPEECH-LANGUAGE
15 PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT, WHICH MAY BE THROUGH SYNCHRONOUS OR LIVE
16 TELESUPERVISION.

17 (6) A SUPERVISOR SHALL PROVIDE FEEDBACK REGARDING THE
18 QUALITY OF A SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT'S PERFORMANCE
19 OF ASSIGNED TASKS. INFORMATION OBTAINED DURING DIRECT
20 SUPERVISION MAY INCLUDE DATA RELATIVE TO THE RELIABILITY BETWEEN
21 THE SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT AND THE SUPERVISOR ON
22 CORRECT OR INCORRECT RECORDING OF TARGET BEHAVIOR, ACCURACY IN
23 IMPLEMENTING ASSIGNED TREATMENT PROCEDURES AND IN RECORDING
24 DATA, AND THE ABILITY TO INTERACT EFFECTIVELY WITH THE PATIENT
25 DURING THE PRESENTATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ASSIGNED
26 PROCEDURES AND ACTIVITIES.

27 (7) A SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT SHALL NOT

1 PERFORM TASKS WHEN A SUPERVISOR CANNOT BE REACHED BY PERSONAL
2 CONTACT, VIA PHONE, OR BY OTHER IMMEDIATE ELECTRONIC MEANS. IF
3 FOR SOME REASON A SUPERVISOR BECOMES UNABLE TO CONTINUE
4 SUPERVISION, THE SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT SHALL NOT
5 PERFORM SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY TASKS UNTIL ANOTHER
6 QUALIFIED SUPERVISOR IS AVAILABLE TO SUPERVISE.

7 **SECTION 13.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-305-112, **amend**
8 (1), (2)(c), (2)(d)(I), (2)(h), (2)(i), (2)(l), (2)(o), (2)(p), and (2)(r); and **add**
9 (2)(t), (2)(u), and (2)(v) as follows:

10 **12-305-112. Grounds for discipline - definitions.** (1) The
11 director may take disciplinary action against a certificate holder pursuant
12 to sections 12-20-404 and 12-305-113 if the director finds that the
13 certificate holder has represented ~~or held himself or herself out~~ OR HELD
14 THEMSELF OUT as a certified speech-language pathologist OR A CERTIFIED
15 SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT after the expiration,
16 suspension, or revocation of ~~his or her~~ THEIR certification.

17 (2) The director may take disciplinary or other action specified in
18 section 12-20-404 or 12-305-113 or issue a cease-and-desist order to a
19 certificate holder in accordance with sections 12-20-405 and 12-305-113
20 (8) upon proof that the certificate holder:

21 (c) ~~Has a substance use disorder, as defined in section 27-81-102;~~
22 Excessively or habitually uses or abuses OR HAS ENGAGED IN EXCESSIVE
23 OR HABITUAL USE OF alcohol, ~~or~~ A habit-forming ~~drugs~~ DRUG, OR A
24 CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 18-8-102 (5), or
25 habitually uses a controlled substance, as defined in section 18-18-102
26 (5), or other drugs having similar effects; except that the director has the
27 discretion not to discipline the certificate holder if the certificate holder

1 is participating in good faith in ~~an alcohol or substance use disorder~~
2 ~~treatment~~ A program approved by the director DESIGNED TO END THE
3 EXCESSIVE OR HABITUAL USE OR ABUSE;

4 (d) (I) Failed to notify the director, as required by section
5 12-30-108 (1), of a physical illness, physical condition, or behavioral,
6 mental health, or substance use disorder that impacts the speech-language
7 pathologist's OR SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT'S ability to
8 perform speech-language pathology with reasonable skill and safety to
9 patients;

10 (h) Has fraudulently obtained, furnished, or sold ~~any~~ A
11 speech-language pathology diploma OR A SPEECH-LANGUAGE
12 PATHOLOGIST OR A SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT certificate,
13 certification, renewal of certification, or record, or aided or abetted the
14 act;

15 (i) Has failed to notify the director of the suspension or revocation
16 of the ~~person's~~ INDIVIDUAL'S past or currently held license, certificate, or
17 ~~certification~~ REGISTRATION required to practice speech-language
18 pathology AS A SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST OR A SPEECH-LANGUAGE
19 PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT in this or any other jurisdiction;

20 (l) Has failed to refer a patient, WHEN REQUIRED, to the
21 appropriate licensed, certified, or registered health-care professional when
22 the services required by the patient are beyond the level of competence of
23 the speech-language pathologist OR SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY
24 ASSISTANT, AS APPLICABLE, or beyond the scope of speech-language
25 pathology practice;

26 (o) Has willfully or negligently acted in a manner inconsistent
27 with the health or safety of ~~persons~~ INDIVIDUALS under ~~his or her~~ THE

- 1 CERTIFICATE HOLDER'S care;
- 2 (p) Has negligently or willfully practiced speech-language
3 pathology in a manner that fails to meet generally accepted standards for
4 THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER FOR speech-language pathology practice;
- 5 (r) Has otherwise violated any provision of this article 305 or
6 lawful order or rule of the director; ~~or~~
- 7 (t) AS A SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST, HAS FAILED TO
8 PROPERLY DIRECT AND SUPERVISE A SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY
9 ASSISTANT PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-305-111.5 WHO IS UNDER THE
10 SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST'S DIRECTION AND SUPERVISION;
- 11 (u) AS A SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT, HAS FAILED
12 TO PRACTICE WITHIN THE SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT'S
13 SCOPE OF PRACTICE, KNOWLEDGE, AND ABILITY; OR
- 14 (v) AS A SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT, HAS FAILED
15 TO FOLLOW THE DIRECTION OF A SUPERVISING SPEECH-LANGUAGE
16 PATHOLOGIST.

17 **SECTION 14.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-305-118, **amend**
18 (1) introductory portion, (1)(b), (2), (3), and (4); and **add** (3.5) as follows:

19 **12-305-118. Protection of medical records - speech-language**
20 **pathologist's obligations - verification of compliance - noncompliance**
21 **grounds for discipline - rules.** (1) ~~Each~~ A speech-language pathologist
22 responsible for patient MEDICAL records shall develop a written plan to
23 ensure the security of patient medical records. The plan must address at
24 least the following:

25 (b) The disposition of patient medical records in the event the
26 ~~certificate holder~~ SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST dies, retires, or
27 otherwise ceases to practice or provide speech-language pathology

1 services to patients; and

2 (2) Upon initial certification under this article 305 and upon
3 renewal OR REINSTATEMENT of a certification, the SPEECH-LANGUAGE
4 PATHOLOGIST applicant or certificate holder shall attest to the director that
5 ~~he or she has~~ THEY HAVE developed a plan in compliance with this
6 section.

7 (3) A ~~certificate holder~~ SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST shall
8 inform each patient in writing of the method by which the patient may
9 access or obtain ~~his or her~~ THE PATIENT'S medical records if an event
10 described in subsection (1)(b) of this section occurs.

11 (3.5) A SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT SHALL COMPLY
12 WITH THE WRITTEN PLAN DEVELOPED BY THE SPEECH-LANGUAGE
13 PATHOLOGIST PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION.

14 (4) A speech-language pathologist OR A SPEECH-LANGUAGE
15 PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT who fails to comply with this section is subject to
16 discipline in accordance with section 12-305-113.

17 **SECTION 15.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-34-104, **amend**
18 (34)(a)(III) as follows:

19 **24-34-104. General assembly review of regulatory agencies**
20 **and functions for repeal, continuation, or reestablishment - legislative**
21 **declaration - repeal.** (34) (a) The following agencies, functions, or both,
22 are scheduled for repeal on September 1, 2033:

23 (III) The regulation of speech-language pathologists AND
24 SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANTS by the director of the
25 division of professions and occupations in accordance with article 305 of
26 title 12;

27 **SECTION 16.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-60-4203, **amend**

1 (1) introductory portion and (1)(b)(II) as follows:

2 **24-60-4203. Construction of terms.** (1) As used in this ~~part 41~~
3 PART 42, unless the context otherwise requires:

4 (b) "License" means:

5 (II) With respect to a speech-language pathologist, a certification
6 issued pursuant to section ~~12-305-106~~ **12-305-106 (1)(a)**.

7 **SECTION 17. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
8 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
9 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
10 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
11 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
12 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
13 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
14 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
15 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.