



## Fiscal Note

### Legislative Council Staff

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## HB 25-1075: REGULATE SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANTS

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**Prime Sponsors:**

Rep. Garcia Sander; Phillips

Sen. Kirkmeyer

**Fiscal Analyst:**

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**Version:** First Revised Note

**Date:** January 31, 2025

**Fiscal note status:** This fiscal note reflect the introduced bill as amended by the House Business Affairs & Labor Committee.

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### Summary Information

**Overview.** The bill regulates speech-language pathology assistants in the Department of Regulatory Agencies.

**Types of impacts.** The bill is projected to affect the following areas on an ongoing basis:

- Minimal State Workload

**Appropriations.** No appropriation is required.

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**Table 1**  
**State Fiscal Impacts**

<b>Type of Impact</b>	<b>Budget Year FY 2025-26</b>	<b>Out Year FY 2026-27</b>
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures	\$0	\$0
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE

## **Summary of Legislation**

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The bill establishes regulatory requirements for speech-language pathology assistants (SLPA) in the Division of Professions and Occupations in the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA). It also expands the supervisory requirements and disciplinary actions for certified speech-language pathologists.

### **Title Protection**

Only individuals who possess a bachelor's degree or higher in a related field, complete a SLPA program, and fulfill at least 100 direct hours of supervised clinical practice may use the title of "Speech-Language Pathology Assistant." SLPAs who are authorized by the Department of Education (CDE) to provide services in schools may also use the title, and are not subject to regulation under DORA.

### **Scope of Practice**

SLPAs may not perform speech-language pathology unless under the direction and supervision of a certified speech-language pathologist. Supervising pathologists are required to establish the amount of direct supervision necessary, determine the ratio of supervisors to SLPAs, initiate first contact with patients, and provide feedback to SLPAs on clinical activities.

Additionally, SLPAs are prohibited from performing certain activities, including diagnosing related disorders, developing plans of care, disclosing confidential information, or making referrals, among others.

### **Disciplinary Action**

The bill authorizes DORA to take disciplinary action against supervising speech-language pathologists under certain circumstances.

## **State Expenditures**

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Starting in FY 2025-26, the bill minimally increases state expenditures in DORA and the Department of Personnel and Administration, as described below.

### **Department of Regulatory Agencies**

Workload will increase in DORA to update rules, conduct outreach to SLPAs, and collaborate with the Department of Education beginning in FY 2025-26. DORA may require legal services, provided by the Department of Law, which can be accomplished within existing legal services appropriations. Legal counsel is related to rulemaking and ongoing administration of the program.

## **Department of Personnel and Administration**

Workload in the Department of Personnel and Administration may increase for administrative law judges in the Office of Administrative Courts to hear cases challenging disciplinary actions by DORA. This workload is expected to be minimal and no change in appropriations is required.

## **Effective Date**

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The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

## **State and Local Government Contacts**

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Judicial

Regulatory Agencies

Law