

**Annual List of Rulemaking Activity**  
**Rules Adopted January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020**  
*Prepared by the Secretary of State pursuant to 5 MRS §8053-A sub-§5*

**Agency name:** Department of Professional and Financial Regulation,  
**Board of Speech, Audiology and Hearing**  
**Umbrella-Unit:** **02-643**  
**Statutory authority:** 32 MRS §§ 17203(2), 17103(6), 17301(5)  
**Chapter number/title:** **Ch. 9**, Speech-Language Pathology Assistants  
**Filing number:** **2020-225**  
**Effective date:** 11/8/2020  
**Type of rule:** Routine Technical  
**Emergency rule:** No

**Principal reason or purpose for rule:**

In 2019, the Legislature passed legislation that granted the Board the authority to issue licenses to speech-language pathology assistants. This rulemaking effort was proposed to repeal and replace outdated rules to align with the new statutory provisions and clarify the qualifications for licensure, supervision, and documentation requirements for speech-language pathology assistants regulated by the Board.

**Basis statement:**

The Maine Board of Speech, Audiology and Hearing (“the Board”) is charged by the Legislature with the regulation of speech-language pathologists, audiologists, hearing aid dealer and fitters, temporary speech-language pathologists/audiologists, hearing aid dealer and fitter trainees, and speech-language pathology assistants in the State of Maine for the sole purpose of protecting the public health and welfare. The Legislature granted the Board rulemaking authority pursuant to 32 MRS §17203 to fully implement its statutory mandates.

In 2019, the Legislature passed legislation that granted the Board the authority to issue licenses to speech-language pathology assistants. This rulemaking effort repeals outdated rules and replaces the rules to align with the new statutory provisions to clarify the qualifications for licensure, supervision, and documentation requirements for speech-language pathology assistants regulated by the Board.

The Board held a public hearing on June 1, 2020, to take oral comments, and accepted written comments through June 11, 2020. The public comments received were considered by the Board on August 17, 2020. At that meeting, the Board determined that the rule it intended to adopt is substantially different from the proposed rule, requiring an additional 30-day public comment period. Specifically, the changes from the proposed rule establish the educational and practicum standards depending on level of degree held by applicant and allow the supervising speech-language pathologist to supervise up to 4 part-time speech-language pathology assistants, while also performing any direct client services for which the supervisor is responsible.

**Fiscal impact of rule:**

None.