

# Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

122<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly of Ohio

BILL: Sub. S.B. 96 (LSC 122 0891-1)

DATE: May 6, 1997

STATUS: In Senate Education and Retirement

SPONSOR: Sen. Cupp

LOCAL IMPACT STATEMENT REQUIRED: Yes

CONTENTS: Requires a study of the shortage of speech-language pathologists; permits issuance of temporary educator licenses in speech-language pathology; allows the Department of Education to contract with licensed speech language pathologists.

## State Fiscal Highlights

STATE FUND	FY 1998	FY 1999	FUTURE YEARS
<b>General Revenue Fund</b>			
Revenues	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -
Expenditures	Potential increase	Potential increase	Potential increase

- The Department of Education will now be allowed to compensate districts who contract with licensed speech-language pathologists for the school district.
- The Legislative Office of Education Oversight will conduct a study on the shortage of speech-language pathologists available to treat students in schools.

## Local Fiscal Highlights

LOCAL GOVERNMENT	FY 1998	FY 1999	FUTURE YEARS
<b>School districts</b>			
Revenues	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -
Expenditures	Potential Increase	Potential Increase	Potential Increase

- After the temporary certification requirements expire in 2002, school districts may only hire and employ individuals as speech-language pathologists if that individual is licensed as a speech-language pathologist.



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## ***Detailed Fiscal Analysis***

This bill allows two methods for school districts to fill school audiologist or school speech-language therapist positions. The first measure is temporary, allowing the State Board of Education to issue temporary certification to educators with bachelor's degrees in speech-language pathology to provide those services in the district. The second provision allows school districts to contract with private speech-language pathologists to provide students service in the district.

Section 3319.223 outlines the conditions under which certification may be granted or renewed. This temporary certification process expires in 2002, when only those individuals licensed in speech-language pathology may practice speech-language pathology in the schools. A master's degree is one of the requirements for state licensure.

A second provision of the bill is to allow school districts to contract with speech-language pathologists to provide such services in the school district.

The reason for the temporary certification is a shortage of qualified licensed therapists in the state. According to a representative of the Ohio University Hearing and Speech Sciences graduate program, all speech-language pathology programs in the state have few positions available in their graduate programs in relation to the number of qualified candidates. Last year at Ohio University alone, 200 candidates applied for 30 positions in the graduate program. Similar circumstances exist at other state universities. The major factor that constrains available positions in a speech-language pathology program is sponsors for students to complete their practicum. In order to allow more spaces in these programs, the master's program must be able to draw on a larger clinical base for students' practical experience.

The fourth section of the bill requires that the Legislative Office of Education Oversight conduct a study on the shortage of speech-language pathologists available to treat students in schools. The study must be completed by the end of 1998 and shall be submitted to the Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President of the Senate.

### **State Fiscal Effects**

A representative of the Legislative Office of Education Oversight anticipates no additional cost to conduct the speech-language pathologist shortage study. The representative foresees the costs to conduct such a study to be absorbed within the list of the office's duties.

### **Local Fiscal Effects**

After 2002, only those licensed in speech-language pathology will be authorized to provide such audiology services to the school district. Due to the overall shortage of speech-language pathologists in the job market, school districts will have to compete with other employers to attract such individuals to the school system. High demand for qualified personnel will increase the market wage for retaining such therapists. In addition, school systems base teacher salaries on many factors including educational attainment. Requiring master's degrees in speech-language pathology and licensure as a qualification for employment will result in higher salary expenditures.

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