

May 5, 2009

H 1600. ALLOW AUDIOLOGIST TO FIT/ DISPENSE HEARING AID. Filed 5/5/09. *AUTHORIZING HEARING AID FITTING AND DISPENSING BY LICENSED AUDIOLOGISTS, AUTHORIZING THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS AND AUDIOLOGISTS TO ESTABLISH A FEE FOR LICENSEES OFFERING TO FIT AND DISPENSE HEARING AIDS, AND MAKING TECHNICAL CHANGES TO THE LAWS PERTAINING TO HEARING AID DEALERS AND FITTERS TO ALLOW AUDIOLOGISTS TO FIT AND DISPENSE HEARING AIDS.*

Amends GS 90-293(6) to include the fitting and dispensing of hearing aids under the umbrella of *the practice of audiology*. Amends GS 90-305 to provide that the fee for licensure to fit and dispense hearing aids is \$150. Amends GS 93D-5 to provide for the licensing of audiologists to fit or sell hearing aids by the NC Board of Examiners for Speech and Language Pathologists and Audiologists (Board). Exempts persons licensed by the Board from the serving as an apprentice requirements for licensing set out in GS 93D-9 and removes others from the exemption. Adds persons licensed by the Board to those not prevented from fitting or selling hearing aids by the provisions of GS Chapter 93D. Makes a conforming change to GS 93D-2 (fitting and selling without a license unlawful). Provides that the proposed changes become effective only if the Board has adopted rules to allow licensed audiologists to fit or dispense hearing aids.

Intro. by England.

GS 90, 93D