



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Synopsis of Senate Committee Amendments*

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Sub. H.B. 420

132nd General Assembly
(S. Health, Human Services & Medicaid)

State Speech and Hearing Professionals Board

Adds to the House-passed version of the bill provisions modifying the laws governing the State Speech and Hearing Professionals Board as follows:

--Requires a hearing aid dealer's or fitter's license to be renewed biennially rather than annually as required under current law.

--Changes the continuing professional education requirement for license renewal from ten hours per one-year renewal period to 20 hours per two-year renewal period.

--Requires the Board to adopt rules establishing the amount of any fee required under the Hearing Aid Dealers Law and eliminates the statutorily specified fees.

--Expands the Board's investigatory duties from investigating specific complaints to investigating all alleged irregularities in the sale or practice of dealing in or fitting hearing aids by any licensee or permit holder, as well as any violations of the Hearing Aid Dealers Law or the Board's rules.

--Revises the list of reasons for which the Board may discipline a licensee or permit holder.

--Requires the Board to act in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act before disciplining a licensee or permit holder based on a complaint or investigation.

--Expands the types of disciplinary actions the Board may take after finding that a licensee or permit holder has violated the Hearing Aid Dealers Law or a rule adopted by the Board.

--Requires the Board to adopt rules establishing the information that must be included in a hearing aid receipt.

* This synopsis does not address amendments that may have been adopted on the Senate Floor.

--Specifies that tests and related materials used in an examination, whether administered by the Board or a private or government entity pursuant to a contract, are not public records under the Public Records Law.

State Vision Professionals Board

Adds to the House-passed version of the bill provisions modifying the laws governing the State Vision Professionals Board as follows:

--Requires the Board to provide each applicant for an optical dispensing license with all forms required to apply for examination, instead of permitting a testing service to provide the forms.

--Requires an optical dispensing apprentice to register with the Board on a form provided by the Board and in the form of a statement that includes specified information, instead of allowing registration with either the form or a statement.

Behavioral health providers and Medicaid criminal records checks

Adds a provision to the House-passed version that revises a recently enacted (see S.B. 229) exemption from Medicaid criminal records check requirements under which certain Medicaid providers are permitted to employ persons despite the requirements, as long as Medicaid claims are not submitted for the employees' services.

Limits the exemption as follows, while retaining the provision that Medicaid claims cannot be submitted for the employees' services:

(1) To Medicaid providers of behavioral health services (which are alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services);

(2) To employees who are health professionals who hold valid licenses granting authority to provide behavioral health services or who are in the process of obtaining such a license;

(3) To employees who are certified as peer recovery supporters under rules adopted by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services or who are in the process of obtaining the certification.