

INSPECTIONS AND APPEALS DEPARTMENT[481]

Regulatory Analysis

Notice of Intended Action to be published: 481—Chapter 2060
“Licensure of Hearing Aid Specialists”

Iowa Code section(s) or chapter(s) authorizing rulemaking: 147, 154A and 272C

State or federal law(s) implemented by the rulemaking: Iowa Code chapter 154A and section 272C.3

Public Hearing

A public hearing at which persons may present their views orally or in writing will be held as follows:

October 6, 2026
9 a.m.

6200 Park Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit written comments concerning this Regulatory Analysis, which must be received by the Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing (DIAL) no later than 4:30 p.m. on the date of the public hearing. Comments should be directed to:

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Des Moines, Iowa 50321
Email: sheri.howard@dia.iowa.gov

Purpose and Summary

This proposed rulemaking implements Iowa Code chapter 154A and sets forth requirements for the hours of weekly supervision required by licensees supervising a temporary hearing aid specialist permit holder preparing for examination and full licensure. The rulemaking seeks to restore language to an incomplete sentence created inadvertently during the most recent rule review. This rulemaking publicly illustrates the process that will be used to reactivate the license for a hearing aid specialist to ensure public safety through review of the integrity and competence of the practitioner. This rulemaking also updates the licensure reactivation rules providing alternatives to completion of continuing education credits for licensees who were actively practicing in another state.

Analysis of Impact

1. Persons affected by the proposed rulemaking:

• Classes of persons that will bear the costs of the proposed rulemaking:

There is no direct cost to the general public, but there is a cost to the applicant because complying with the minimum requirements for initial entry and reentry into the profession are at the expense of the licensee.

• Classes of persons that will benefit from the proposed rulemaking:

The costs are justified by the benefits to the public, applicants, and employers of establishing clear minimum requirements to ensure that practitioners are competent to practice.

2. Impact of the proposed rulemaking, economic or otherwise, including the nature and amount of all the different kinds of costs that would be incurred:

- **Quantitative description of impact:**

Reinstating the missing language provides guidance to licensees on the number of supervision hours required.

- **Qualitative description of impact:**

This rulemaking establishes parameters for licensees who are planning to be supervisors or reactivate their license.

3. Costs to the State:

- **Implementation and enforcement costs borne by the agency or any other agency:**

Costs to the agency are the staff time needed to review and process temporary permit and reactivation applications.

- **Anticipated effect on State revenues:**

Cost savings will result from implementing this rulemaking by providing the public with clear guidance. There is no anticipated impact on State revenues.

4. Comparison of the costs and benefits of the proposed rulemaking to the costs and benefits of inaction:

This rulemaking provides needed guidance for supervision that was inadvertently omitted during the Red Tape Review. Alternative ways to demonstrate competence during the reactivation process are provided. Licensure requirements could be reduced or eliminated for the purpose of lowering the bar of entry into the profession, but that scenario raises concerns about the public safety of Iowans. The cost of inaction would be an increase in the potential for injury to the public that would remain unchecked without review prior to initial licensure, periodic compliance audits and complaint investigation. In addition, this rulemaking provides consistency related to the licensure of hearing aid specialists in other states, which makes obtaining licensure in multiple states simpler for applicants.

5. Determination whether less costly methods or less intrusive methods exist for achieving the purpose of the proposed rulemaking:

This process is the most cost-effective method to correct the omitted language. DIAL believes all current requirements ensure public safety and that a minimum competency of care is provided to Iowans. Licensure requirements could be reduced or eliminated for the purpose of lowering the bar of entry into the profession, but DIAL would be concerned about the public safety of Iowans in that scenario.

In addition, the rulemaking attempts to provide consistency related to the licensure of hearing aid specialists across the United States, which makes obtaining licensure in multiple states simpler for applicants.

The DIAL Licensing Division continues to assess and implement opportunities to increase efficiencies and standardize licensure processes across all professions. These amendments support this effort. DIAL is actively pursuing a single licensing platform to assist in standardizing licensing.

6. Alternative methods considered by the agency:

- **Description of any alternative methods that were seriously considered by the agency:**

DIAL has not identified a more cost-effective alternative to this rulemaking.

- **Reasons why alternative methods were rejected in favor of the proposed rulemaking:**

DIAL has not identified a more cost-effective alternative to this rulemaking.

Small Business Impact

If the rulemaking will have a substantial impact on small business, include a discussion of whether it would be feasible and practicable to do any of the following to reduce the impact of the rulemaking on small business:

- Establish less stringent compliance or reporting requirements in the rulemaking for small business.
- Establish less stringent schedules or deadlines in the rulemaking for compliance or reporting requirements for small business.
- Consolidate or simplify the rulemaking's compliance or reporting requirements for small business.
- Establish performance standards to replace design or operational standards in the rulemaking for small business.
- Exempt small business from any or all requirements of the rulemaking.

If legal and feasible, how does the rulemaking use a method discussed above to reduce the substantial impact on small business?

The proposed amendments relate to public safety concerns that are present whether the business is a small business or a large organization. These amendments are meant to ensure public safety in terms of supervision requirements for temporary hearing aid specialist permit holders preparing for examination and full licensure. To exempt a small business from adhering to this rulemaking would jeopardize any member of the public who sought services from that small business. The risk to the public is greater than the potential harm or cost to the small business.

Text of Proposed Rulemaking

ITEM 1. Amend subrule 2060.3(1) as follows:

2060.3(1) The supervisor(s) of temporary permit holders will:

- and *b.* No change.
- Supervise no more than three trainees with temporary permits at the same time;
- No change.
- For the first 90 days, provide a minimum of 20 hours of direct supervision per week in the physical presence of the trainee;
- to *j.* No change.

ITEM 2. Amend rule 481—2060.8(17A,147,272C) as follows:

481—2060.8(17A,147,272C) License reactivation. To apply for reactivation of an inactive license, a licensee will:

2060.8(1) Submit a completed online reactivation application ~~and payment of the nonrefundable application fee.~~

2060.8(2) Submit payment of the nonrefundable application fee as specified in 481—subrule 507.7(5).

2060.8(2) 2060.8(3) Provide verification of current competence to practice as a hearing aid specialist by satisfying one of the following criteria:

a. If the license has been on inactive status for five years or less, an applicant will provide the following:

(1) Verification of the license(s) from the jurisdiction in which the applicant has most recently been licensed ~~showing the licensee's name, date of initial licensure, current licensure status and any disciplinary action taken against the license; and practicing during the time period the Iowa license was inactive, sent directly from the jurisdiction to the licensing office. The applicant must also disclose any public or pending complaints against the applicant in any other jurisdiction. Web-based verification may be substituted for verification from a jurisdiction's licensure office if the verification includes:~~

1. Licensee's name;
2. Date of initial licensure;
3. Current licensure status; and
4. Any disciplinary action taken against the license; and

(2) Verification of completion of 24 hours of continuing education within two years of application for reactivation or verification of active practice, consisting of a minimum of 2,080 hours, in another state or jurisdiction during the two years preceding an application for reactivation.

b. If the license has been on inactive status for more than five years, an applicant must provide the following:

(1) Verification of the license(s) from the jurisdiction in which the applicant has most recently been licensed ~~showing the licensee's name, date of initial licensure, current licensure status and any disciplinary action taken against the license;~~ and practicing during the time period the Iowa license was inactive, sent directly from the jurisdiction to the licensing office. The applicant must also disclose any public or pending complaints against the applicant in any other jurisdiction. Web-based verification may be substituted for verification from a jurisdiction's licensure office if the verification includes:

1. Licensee's name;
2. Date of initial licensure;
3. Current licensure status; and
4. Any disciplinary action taken against the license; and

(2) Verification of completion of 48 hours of continuing education within two years of application for reactivation; verification of active practice, consisting of a minimum of 2,080 hours, in another state or jurisdiction during the two years preceding an application for reactivation; or evidence of successful completion of the professional examination required for initial licensure completed within one year prior to the submission of an application for reactivation.