**South Carolina General Assembly**

121st Session, 2015-2016

**A124, R72, H3847**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

Joint Resolution

Sponsors: Reps. G.R. Smith, Burns, Hamilton, Loftis, Robinson‑Simpson, Putnam, Allison, Bannister, Chumley, Dillard, Nanney, Stringer and Willis

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Introduced in the House on March 17, 2015

Introduced in the Senate on March 24, 2015

Last Amended on May 12, 2015

Passed by the General Assembly on May 19, 2015

Governor's Action: June 3, 2015, Signed

Summary: Speech-Language Pathologist Assistant

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

3/17/2015 House Introduced, read first time, placed on calendar without reference ([House Journal‑page 29](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2015\03-17-15.docx))

3/18/2015 House Read second time ([House Journal‑page 18](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2015\03-18-15.docx))

3/18/2015 House Roll call Yeas‑97 Nays‑3 ([House Journal‑page 19](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2015\03-18-15.docx))

3/19/2015 House Read third time and sent to Senate ([House Journal‑page 17](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2015\03-19-15.docx))

3/24/2015 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 14](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2015\03-24-15.docx))

3/24/2015 Senate Referred to Committee on **Medical Affairs** ([Senate Journal‑page 14](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2015\03-24-15.docx))

5/4/2015 Senate Committee report: Favorable with amendment **Medical Affairs** ([Senate Journal‑page 16](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2015\05-04-15.docx))

5/12/2015 Senate Committee Amendment Adopted ([Senate Journal‑page 55](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2015\05-12-15.docx))

5/12/2015 Senate Read second time ([Senate Journal‑page 55](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2015\05-12-15.docx))

5/12/2015 Senate Roll call Ayes‑41 Nays‑0 ([Senate Journal‑page 55](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2015\05-12-15.docx))

5/13/2015 Senate Read third time and returned to House with amendments ([Senate Journal‑page 23](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2015\05-13-15.docx))

5/14/2015 Scrivener's error corrected

5/19/2015 House Concurred in Senate amendment and enrolled ([House Journal‑page 92](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2015\05-19-15.docx))

5/19/2015 House Roll call Yeas‑63 Nays‑38 ([House Journal‑page 92](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2015\05-19-15.docx))

5/28/2015 Ratified R 72

6/3/2015 Signed By Governor

6/8/2015 Effective date See Act for Effective Date

8/17/2015 Act No. 124

View the latest [legislative information](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=3847&session=121&summary=B) at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[3/17/2015](file:///p:\pprever\2015-16\3847_20150317.docx)

[3/17/2015-A](file:///p:\pprever\2015-16\3847_20150317A.docx)

[5/4/2015](file:///p:\pprever\2015-16\3847_20150504.docx)

[5/12/2015](file:///p:\pprever\2015-16\3847_20150512.docx)

[5/14/2015](file:///p:\pprever\2015-16\3847_20150514.docx)

(A124, R72, H3847)

**A JOINT RESOLUTION TO TEMPORARILY EXEMPT APPLICANTS FOR LICENSURE AS A SPEECH‑LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST ASSISTANT FROM THE REQUIREMENT OF HAVING A BACHELOR’S DEGREE FROM A REGIONALLY ACCREDITED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOUND IN SECTION 40‑67‑220 OF THE 1976 CODE IF THE APPLICANT HOLDS A BACHELOR’S DEGREE IN SPEECH‑LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY FROM A NATIONALLY ACCREDITED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION; TO PROVIDE THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS JOINT RESOLUTION LIBERALLY MUST BE CONSTRUED TO EFFECTUATE THE PURPOSES OF THIS JOINT RESOLUTION AND MUST BE APPLIED RETROACTIVELY; AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPIRATION OF THIS JOINT RESOLUTION ON JULY 1, 2019.**

Whereas, the General Assembly applauds the good faith efforts of people who try to better themselves by advancing their education, and encourages the pursuit of higher education as a means to achieving individual economic security and improving the economy of this State; and

Whereas, the General Assembly recognizes that in recent years some students embarked on a path to becoming speech‑language pathologist assistants in reliance on certain licensure requirements that subsequently were changed in a way that rendered their education meaningless for the purposes of seeking licensure; and

Whereas, prior to the enactment of Act 167 of 2014, applicants for licensure as speech‑language pathologist assistants were required to have earned a bachelor’s degree in speech‑language pathology without regard to the accreditation, if any, of the school that granted the degree. Following the enactment of Act 167 of 2014, applicants were required to have earned a bachelor’s degree in speech‑language pathology from a regionally accredited institution; and

Whereas, the General Assembly finds that this criteria change has had a profoundly negative impact on students enrolled in baccalaureate speech‑language pathology programs that are nationally accredited but not regionally accredited, and that it is necessary and proper to mitigate this negative impact by temporarily adjusting these requirements to fit the circumstances of these students and allow them a reasonable amount of time to complete the path to licensure that they embarked upon in good faith. Now, therefore,

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

**Exemptions from degree‑granting institution accreditation requirements**

SECTION 1. An applicant for licensure as a speech‑language pathologist assistant who earned a bachelor’s degree in speech‑language pathology from a nationally accredited institution of higher education is exempt from the requirement of having a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education found in Section 40‑67‑220(F) of the 1976 Code, which was enacted by Act 167 of 2014, on May 16, 2014.

**Retroactive application**

SECTION 2. The provisions of this joint resolution apply retroactively.

**Construction of provisions**

SECTION 3. The provisions of this joint resolution must be liberally construed to effectuate the purposes of this joint resolution.

**Time effective, expiration**

SECTION 4. This joint resolution takes effect upon approval by the Governor and expires on July 1, 2019.

Ratified the 28th day of May, 2015.

Approved the 3rd day of June, 2015.

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