



Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007  
**Introducer's Statement of Intent**  
**LB 479**

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**Chairperson:** Joel Johnson  
**Committee:** Health and Human Services  
**Date of Hearing:** February 8, 2007

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

This legislation updates the laws governing the practice of audiology and speech pathology. This legislation is a result of a scope of practice review conducted by Department of Health and Human Services-Licensure through the "407 Process" and the recommendations by the Technical Review Committee that has been recently affirmed by the Board of Health.

Audiologists and Speech Pathologist are both regulated by this act. Licensed Audiologists and Speech Pathologists have completed a Master's or Doctorate Degree.

The new definition of audiologists includes specific authorization for certain types of hearing augmentation that reflect current recognized training, technology and practice including specific language on cerumen (earwax) removal. The new definition of speech pathologist specifically adds similar language updates including specific language on dysphagia (swallowing).

The term communication assistant is changed to audiology assistant or speech pathology assistant. Assistants who have completed Associate Degrees programs at certified institutions are recognized.

Removes the requirement that audiologist have a separate hearing aid dispensing license.

The bill does not change any of the current exemptions in the law.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Senator Joel T. Johnson**