

New Mexico Register / Volume XXXVI, Issue 4 / February 25, 2025**NOTICE OF PUBLIC RULE HEARING AND BOARD MEETING**

The New Mexico Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology & Hearing Aid Dispensing Practices Board will hold a rule hearing on Friday, April 11, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., immediately followed by a meeting of the board to consider any public comment and adoption of the proposed rules listed below.

Public participation is welcomed, and comments may be submitted in writing during the public comment period, or in person during the public rule hearing. The hearing and subsequent meeting will take place at the Regulation and Licensing Department, Toney Anaya Building, Rio Grande Conference Room, located at 2550 Cerrillos Road, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87505.

The hearing and subsequent meeting may also be accessed virtually via Microsoft Teams.

Meeting Link: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-teams/join-a-meeting>

Meeting ID: 286 964 876 882 Passcode: pv6jqZ

or

Join by Phone: +1-505-312-4308

Phone Access Code: 114 032 418#

The purpose of the rule hearing is to consider proposed amendments to the following board rules:

16.26.5 NMAC – Continuing Education

16.26.6 NMAC – Fees

16.26.7 NMAC – Grounds for Disciplinary Action

Copies of the proposed rule may be obtained through the board website or contacting the Board Administrator through the information below:

<https://www.rld.nm.gov/boards-and-commissions/individual-boards-and-commissions/speech-language-pathology-audiology-and-hearing-aid-dispensing-practices/board-information/speech-language-pathology-meetings/>

Jen Rodriguez, Acting Board Administrator

(505) 795-3250 – Board Administrator Direct Line

speech.hearing@rld.nm.gov Attn. Jen Rodriguez

Written comment will be accepted during the public comment period, up until Friday, April 11, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. and may be submitted either by email or by postal mail to the following addresses:

speech.hearing@rld.nm.gov

Attn: New Mexico Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology & Hearing Aid Dispensing Practices Board

P.O. Box 25101

Santa Fe, NM 87504

Written comments received during the public comment period prior to the public rule hearing will be posted to the board website page linked above. Public comment will also be accepted during the rule hearing and may be submitted in writing or presented orally by those attending both in-person and virtually. The board will not enter into substantive discussion of public comments during the rule hearing, but will consider and deliberate any public comment during the board meeting immediately following the conclusion of the public rule hearing.

The agenda for the board meeting, which will begin immediately after the public rule hearing, will available no less than 72 hours prior to the meeting, and available on the Board website linked above or by contacting the Board Administrator.

An individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the hearing, please contact the Board Administrator.

Statutory Authority:

The proposed rule changes are authorized by the Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensing Practices Act, Sections 61-14B-1 through 61-14B-25 NMSA 1978, which provides explicit authority for the board to promulgate rules to protect public health and safety and carry out the provisions of the Act.

The rulemaking and public rule hearing is governed by the State Rules Act, Sections 14-4-1 through 14-4-11 NMSA 1978, and the Default Procedural Rule for Rulemaking promulgated by the New Mexico Department of Justice, Parts 1.24.25.1 through 1.24.25.16 NMAC.

Purpose of Proposed Rules:

The proposed rule additions are intended to clarify the continuing education requirements for license renewal, the process of auditing license renewals, the potential penalties for not meeting the continuing education requirements and setting fees for returned checks and electronic checks. More generally, the proposed rules are intended to provide greater clarity in existing regulatory and statutory requirements, ensure continued high levels of professionalism among licensees and certificate holders, and to generally satisfy the Board's statutory obligation to promote, preserve and protect public health, safety and welfare.

Summary of Proposed Rule:

16.26.5 NMAC – Continuing Education;

This repeal and replace of the rule will clarify the continuing education requirements prior to the license expiration date in order to renew a license issued by the board. It also describes the audit process of license renewals, ensuring that licensees are completing their continuing education requirements as part of their license renewal.

16.26.6 NMAC – Fees;

This change will provide a fee for returned checks and electronic checks.

16.26.7 NMAC – Grounds for Disciplinary Action;

This change will make it clear what is required from a licensee if and when there is a continuing education audit of their license renewal.