

# Montana Speech-Language-Hearing Association Proposals for Laws/Rules

(sent by email from Abigail St. Lawrence) April 2016

## Simplification and ease of access to application process:

Propose:

- 1) **two year license renewal to align with reporting of 40 CEU (February 1 of each odd numbered year) instead of current one year renewal**
- 2) **separately list application fee (most states charge \$75) (Rule 24.222.401)**
- 3) **prorate original license fee when halfway through license year**
- 4) **allow online application and online payment (at this time only renewal is paid online)**
- 5) **allow jurisprudence exam to be completed online**
- 6) **provide Jurisprudence exam information in one location online**

## Board configuration:

Propose:

**Terms must be staggered so that no more than three terms end each year. One audiologist and one speech pathologist are joining a board with an experienced member continuing. (MCA 2-15-1739)**

## Fee adjustments:

Propose:

1. **Addition of specific date to 37-15-307 specifying when Board must issue public report on website which determines yearly (two year) license change proposal. (2008-2009 and 2010-2011 are currently the only Professional & Occupational Licensing Reports on website).**

Current and projected budgets are not available on website

Fees collected for renewal were double previous year. There was no advance communication with licensees or a board meeting which could have provided an opportunity for questions. Since no minutes are available online I cannot see where the Board voted on this increase.

Balances are not to exceed two times the board's annual appropriation level and are to be adjusted (do we get a refund?) (37-1-101, #10)

2. **Board shall propose, as part of annual budget request, an adjustment in the amount of each fee that the board is authorized to collect.**
  - a. **Based upon the appropriation made and subject to the approval of (executive director) the Board shall adjust its fees so that the revenue generated from the fees approximates its direct and indirect costs. Fees remain in effect for the fiscal year for which the budget applies.**
  - b. **Whenever moneys are appropriate to a board or commission for its activities for the prior fiscal year unexpended, said moneys shall be made a part of the appropriation to such board for the next fiscal year, and such amount shall not be raised from fees collected by such board.**
  - c. **Yearly state audit completed by (date shall be made available on website to support board recommended fees).**