

House Bill 1186

By: Representatives Houston of the 170th, Dubnik of the 29th, Erwin of the 28th, Cooper of the 43rd, Lott of the 122nd, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 44 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to state speech-language pathology and audiology licensing, so as to allow persons
3 who are not licensed audiologists to use otoacoustic emissions or auditory brainstem
4 response technology as part of a screening process for the initial identification of
5 communication disorders in individuals up to age 22, subject to certain conditions; to provide
6 for compliance with certain notifiable disease reporting requirements; to provide for related
7 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Article 1 of Chapter 44 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
11 state speech-language pathology and audiology licensing, is amended in Code Section
12 43-44-7, relating to license required, exemptions, and posting license, by revising subsection
13 (h) and adding a new subsection to read as follows:

14 "(h) A person who is not licensed as an audiologist may perform nondiagnostic
15 electro-physiologic screening of the auditory system, using otoacoustic emissions or
16 auditory brainstem response technology, as part of a planned and organized screening effort

17 for the initial identification of communication disorders ~~in infants under the age of three~~
18 months in persons from birth through 22 years of age, provided that:

19 (1) The person not licensed as an audiologist has completed a procedure specific training
20 program directed by an audiologist licensed under this chapter;

21 (2) The screening equipment and protocol used are fully automated and the protocol is
22 not accessible for alteration or adjustment by the person not licensed as an audiologist;

23 (3) The results of the screening are determined automatically by the programmed test
24 equipment, without discretionary judgment by the person not licensed as an audiologist,
25 and are only reported as 'pass or fail' or 'pass or refer';

26 (4) An audiologist licensed under this chapter is responsible for the training of the person
27 not licensed as an audiologist, the selection of the screening program protocol, the
28 determination of administration guidelines, the periodic monitoring of the performance
29 of the person not licensed as an audiologist, and the screening program results; and

30 (5) The participation of the person not licensed as an audiologist in such an automated
31 screening program is limited to the recording of ~~patient~~ demographic information of the
32 individual being screened; the application of earphones, electrodes, and other necessary
33 devices; the initiation of the test; the recording of the results; and the arrangement of the
34 referral for those who do not pass the screening to an audiologist licensed under this
35 chapter for follow-up evaluation."

36 "(1) All persons subject to the provisions of this Code section shall be required to comply
37 with notifiable disease reporting requirements promulgated by the Department of Health
38 pursuant to Code Section 31-12-2."

39 **SECTION 2.**

40 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.