

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 925

BY REPRESENTATIVE HENRY

SPEECH/PATH/AUDIO: Provides relative to the practice of audiology and speech-language pathology

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 37:2651(11)(a) and enact R.S. 37:2651(11)(e) and (f), relative
3 to the definitions relevant to speech language pathology and audiology; to provide
4 for definitions; to provide for guidelines for the practice of audiology; and to provide
5 for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 37:2651(11)(a) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.
8 37:2651(11)(e) and (f) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §2651. Definitions

10 * * *

11 (11)(a) "Practice of audiology" means providing or offering to provide to
12 individuals or groups of individuals who have or are suspected of having disorders
13 of the auditory system, which includes any service in audiology, including
14 prevention, identification, evaluation, interpretation, counseling, consultation,
15 habilitation, rehabilitation, instruction, supervision, or research. The practice of
16 audiology shall also include audiology services for disorders of the vestibular system
17 ~~upon referral of a physician.~~

18 * * *

19 (11)(e) An audiologist is permitted to perform any of the following:

- 1 (i) Order cultures and blood work testing solely as related to the auditory or
2 vestibular conditions in the human ear.
- 3 (ii) Order and perform in-office non-radiographic testing of the external
4 auditory canal solely for the evaluation of hearing and balance disorders.
- 5 (iii) Order radiographic imaging solely as related to the auditory or vestibular
6 conditions in the human ear.
- 7 (f) An audiologist is prohibited from performing any of the following:
- 8 (i) Surgery using an instrument including a laser, scalpel, needle, cautery,
9 cryoprobe, or suture, in which human tissue is cut, burned, vaporized, removed, or
10 otherwise permanently altered by mechanical, laser, ionizing radiation, ultrasound,
11 or other means.
- 12 (ii) Osseointegrated device surgery.
- 13 (iii) Cochlear implant surgery.
- 14 (iv) The preparation, operation, or performance of radiographic imaging; or
15 the use or interpretation of cultures, blood work testing, or radiographic imaging to
16 diagnose or treat patients.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 925 Original

2026 Regular Session

Henry

Abstract: Provides clarification relative to the practice of audiology and speech-language pathology.

Present law provides for the practice of audiology to also include audiology services for disorders of the vestibular system upon referral of a physician.

Proposed law removes the referral of a physician provision.

Proposed law permits audiologists to order cultures, blood work testing, and radiographic imaging solely related to the auditory or vestibular conditions in the human ear; and to order and perform in-office non-radiographic testing for the purposes hearing and balance disorder evaluations.

Proposed law prohibits audiologists from performing surgery using instruments including a laser, scalpel, needle, cautery, cryoprobe, or suture, in which human tissue is modified or otherwise permanently altered by mechanical, laser, ionizing radiation, ultrasound, or other means.

Proposed law prohibits audiologists from performing osseointegrated device and cochlear implant surgery.

Proposed law prohibits audiologists from the preparation, operation, or performance of radiographic imaging; or the use or interpretation of cultures, blood work testing, or radiographic imaging to diagnose or treat patients.

(Amends R.S. 37:2651(11)(a) and Adds R.S. 37:2651(11)(e) and (f))