

## **House Bill 376**

41 states, including Kentucky, provide teachers who have National Board Certification from the *National Board of Professional Teaching Standards* (NBPTS) with a salary supplement. NBPTS does not offer National Board Certification to speech-language pathologists (SLP) or audiologists who provide services to children within the public school setting. Therefore, this bill proposes that Kentucky offer support that the **ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competence** (ASHA-CCC) in speech-language pathology or audiology be considered equivalent to National Board Certification. Many other states have already adopted similar legislation.

ASHA certification requires that candidates demonstrate advanced knowledge and skill in their area of certification and identifies the highest qualified providers in the nation.

Like National Board Certification, ASHA certification is offered on a voluntary basis. Unlike NBPTS, which requires that a candidate have a bachelor's degree, all applicants pursuing ASHA certification must, at minimum, have either a master's or doctorate in the area of communication disorders or audiology. They must complete a minimum of 350 hours of supervised clinical practicum, followed by a post-graduate clinical fellowship year that consists of a rigorous professional experience under the supervision of an individual who holds ASHA certification. Additionally, candidates must pass both a national standardized examination and 3 performance-based assessments and requires annual renewal and yearly completion of continuing education activities.

Our public schools often compete with private agencies, hospitals and rehabilitation facilities when attempting to hire adequately trained therapists. Approval of the salary supplement legislation for ASHA certified clinicians will not only provide parity for these providers, but will also provide inducements necessary for public schools to recruit and retain the most highly qualified providers. Passage of this bill will assist public schools in recruiting and retaining the most highly qualified providers of speech, language and hearing services. Our children with communication disorders and/or hearing disabilities will be the primary beneficiaries. Please consider passage of this legislation.

### **Education Committee**

[Rep. Carl Rollins](#) [Chair]

- [Rep. Linda Belcher](#) [Vice Chair]
- [Rep. John "Bam" Carney](#) [Vice Chair]
- [Rep. Ted Edmonds](#) [Vice Chair]
- [Rep. Charles Miller](#) [Vice Chair]
- [Rep. Tom Riner](#) [Vice Chair]
- [Rep. Kent Stevens](#) [Vice Chair]
- [Rep. Wilson Stone](#) [Vice Chair]
- [Rep. Alecia Webb-Edgington](#) [Vice Chair]
- [Rep. Hubert Collins](#)
- [Rep. Leslie Combs](#)
- [Rep. Jim DeCesare](#)
- [Rep. C. B. Embry](#)
- [Rep. Bill Farmer](#)

- [Rep. Tim Firkins](#)
- [Rep. Kelly Flood](#)
- [Rep. Jim Glenn](#)
- [Rep. Derrick Graham](#)
- [Rep. Jeff Greer](#)
- [Rep. Reginald Meeks](#)
- [Rep. Harry Moberly](#)
- [Rep. Rick G. Nelson](#)
- [Rep. Marie Rader](#)
- [Rep. Jody Richards](#)
- [Rep. Charles Siler](#)
- [Rep. Dottie Sims](#)
- [Rep. David Watkins](#)
- [Rep. Addia Wuchner](#)
- [Rep. Jill York](#)