



North Carolina State Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Board

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November 30, 2020

Susie Esealuka
The Office of State Budget and Management
(via email at: Susie.esealuka@osbm.nc.gov)

Virginia Barlow
Joint Legislative Administrative Procedure Oversight Committee
(via email at: virginia.barlow@ncleg.gov)

Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations
(via email at: govops@ncleg.net)

RE: Interim Report on Efforts to Exercise Regulatory Flexibility

To Whom It May Concern,

The North Carolina Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Board (the "Board") submits the following interim report on its efforts to exercise regulatory flexibility in accordance with the "Coronavirus Relief Act 3.0.", Session Law 2020-97, s. 3.20 (c) (H 1105) (the "Act").

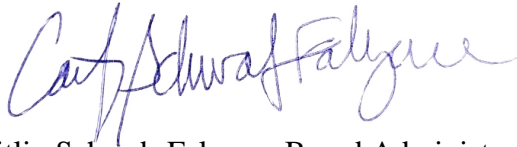
Specifically, the Board determined that due to the impacts of the coronavirus, it was in the public interest, including the public health, safety, and welfare and the economic well-being of the citizens and businesses of the State, to take the following measures:

1. The Board canceled the May 2020 exam and all exam takers received a credit for the fees paid that could be applied towards the next exam offered in August of 2020. The August exam was limited in numbers to allow for a safe environment for all exam takers and proctors with a limited number of exam takers to allow for appropriate social distancing. The Board rented a large conference room to allow all exam takers that registered to take the exam while observing social distancing protocols.
2. The Board waived the expiration date of any apprentice certificates for any apprentice that had registered for the May 2020 exam that was canceled. Any apprentice that had registered for the May exam was able to continue to work as an apprentice until the August 2020 exam.

The Board has not seen any issues with the Continuing Education requirements for licensure renewal because all Continuing Education classes/credits can be taken online. Further, the Board has not made any modifications to the licensure renewal process as all licenses were renewed on or before March 31, 2020. The Board reserves the right to extend the renewal deadline in 2021 should it become apparent that additional time is necessary for licensees to complete the renewal process.

The Board posted its decisions regarding the exam cancelation and fee allocation to the next exam date on the Board's website and communicated with the exam candidates/licensees via email and regular mail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Caitlin Schwab-Falzone". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Caitlin" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Schwab-Falzone".

Caitlin Schwab-Falzone, Board Administrator
North Carolina State Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Board

cc: Juliane L. Bradshaw, Assistant Attorney General
Counsel to the North Carolina State Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Board