



**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS AND AUDIOLOGISTS**

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February 26, 2025

**Joint Legislative Administrative Procedure Oversight Committee
Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations
Subject: Response to Reporting Requirement on Regulatory Flexibility – Hurricane Helene**

Dear Committee Members,

This letter is in response to the reporting requirement set forth in Hurricane Helene SL 2024-53, promulgated in October 2024. As per the new mandate, all occupational licensing boards are required to report to the Joint Legislative Administrative Procedure Oversight Committee and the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations by March 1, 2025, detailing their use of "regulatory flexibility" as permitted by the Session Law.

Between October 2024 and March 1, 2025, the North Carolina Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists (NCBOESLPA) implemented several measures to assist licensees affected by Hurricane Helene. These actions included:

1. Delay of Renewal Dates for Employment-Related Certifications

- On October 8, 2024, the NCBOESLPA issued the following statement:
"In response to Hurricane Helene and in accordance with 21 NCAC 64.0108 Waiver and Executive Order 318 by Governor Cooper, the board will grant the following waivers/allowances to any NC licensees affected by the storm, without the need to submit the waiver/allowance form."
- **Extension of License Renewal Grace Period:**
Effective October 7, 2024, pursuant to Governor Cooper's Executive Order #318, the NCBOESLPA extended the 30-day grace period for license renewals under General Statute 90-300 to 90 days for affected licensees.
- **Telepractice Flexibility:**
The NCBOESLPA allowed out-of-state licensed providers to offer telepractice services to North Carolina residents, provided their state licensure boards also permitted telepractice across state lines. Licensees were required to attest in writing that their state boards had implemented such allowances.
- **Temporary Suspension of In-State Licensing Requirement for Telepractice:**
Effective October 7, 2024, the NCBOESLPA temporarily suspended the rule requiring North Carolina providers to hold a license in the state where they are physically located

when providing telepractice services to North Carolina residents, provided the state board where they were physically located also allowed telepractice into remote states.

2. Modification of Educational or Examination Requirements

- **Extension of Continuing Education Requirements:**

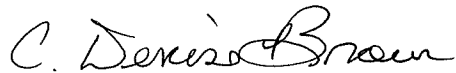
Effective October 7, 2024, the NCBOESLPA granted a three-month extension on continuing education (CEU) requirements for licensees whose CEU cycle ends on December 31, 2024.

- **Waiver for Special Circumstances:**

A waiver form was created to allow licensees to submit any special circumstances caused by Hurricane Helene. This form enabled the board to consider additional accommodations on a case-by-case basis to support licensees during this emergency.

These actions reflect the NCBOESLPA's commitment to supporting affected licensees while ensuring continued access to services during this challenging time. Should you require additional information or documentation regarding these actions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully submitted,



C. Denise Brown

Executive Director

North Carolina Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists
(NCBOESLPA)