



North Carolina State Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Board

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February 20, 2018

Via Electronic Mail

The Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations

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RE: Consultation Request for fee increase in 21 NCAC 22A .0501 of NCHALB rules

Dear Members of the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations, Commission Assistants, and Staff of the Fiscal Research Division,

Pursuant to N.C. General Statute § 93D-5, the N.C. Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Board is seeking an amendment to 21 NCAC 22A .0501 so as to increase the application for a license fee to \$425 from \$250. Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 12-3.1, the Board is submitting this consultation request to all members of the Commission, the Commission Assistant, and the Fiscal Research Division of the General Assembly. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 12-3.1 requires the following information:

1) The amount of the current fee or charge.

The amount of the current fee is \$250.

2) The amount of the proposed new or increased fee or charge.

The amount of the proposed increased fee is \$425.

3) The statutory authority for the fee or charge.

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 93D-5 provides as follows: “(a) No person shall undertake any activity within the scope of practice of a hearing aid specialist in this State unless the person first has been

issued a license by the Board or is an apprentice working under the supervision of a Registered Sponsor. Except as hereinafter provided, each applicant for a license shall pay a fee set by the Board, not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00).”

4) A detailed explanation of the need for the establishment or increase of the fee or charge.

The Board’s licensing exam consists of four parts, Part A, B, C, and D. In an effort to be more consistent with similar licensing boards in other states and in an effort to simplify the process for an out of state applicant seeking to practice in N.C., the Board is transitioning to using the International Licensing Exam (“ILE”) by the International Hearing Society (“IHS”) for Part D of the Board’s Licensing Exam. Due to this transition, the Board is decreasing the fee it charges for its exam from \$300 to \$75, because applicants have to pay a fee of \$225 directly to the IHS to take the ILE. Thus, the Board is seeking to increase the fee for the application from \$250 to \$425 to account for the decreased amount the Board will be getting from the exam fee. The Board uses the funds received by these fees to administer the Board’s licensing exam.

Please feel free to contact the Board for any other information that you may need as part of this consultation request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Cait Schwab Falzone". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Cait" and last name "Falzone" being more prominent than the middle name "Schwab".

Caitlin Schwab-Falzone, Board Administrator &
Rule-making coordinator
North Carolina State Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Board

Cc: Angela T. Goodrich, N.C. Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Board President