

1 AN ACT concerning regulation.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Hearing Instrument Consumer Protection Act  
5 is amended by changing Section 8 as follows:

6 (225 ILCS 50/8) (from Ch. 111, par. 7408)

7 (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2026)

8 Sec. 8. Applicant qualifications; examination.

9 (a) In order to protect persons who are deaf or hard of  
10 hearing, the Department shall authorize or shall conduct an  
11 appropriate examination, which may be the International  
12 Hearing Society's licensure examination, for persons who  
13 dispense, test, select, recommend, fit, or service hearing  
14 instruments. The frequency of holding these examinations shall  
15 be determined by the Department by rule. Those who successfully  
16 pass such an examination shall be issued a license as a hearing  
17 instrument dispenser, which shall be effective for a 2-year  
18 period.

19 (b) Applicants shall be:

20 (1) at least 18 years of age;

21 (2) of good moral character;

22 (3) the holder of an associate's degree or the  
23 equivalent;

- 1           (4) free of contagious or infectious disease; and  
2           (5) a citizen or person who has the status as a legal  
3           alien.

4           Felony convictions of the applicant and findings against  
5           the applicant involving matters set forth in Sections 17 and 18  
6           shall be considered in determining moral character, but such a  
7           conviction or finding shall not make an applicant ineligible to  
8           register for examination.

9           (c) Prior to engaging in the practice of fitting,  
10          dispensing, or servicing hearing instruments, an applicant  
11          shall demonstrate, by means of written and practical  
12          examinations, that such person is qualified to practice the  
13          testing, selecting, recommending, fitting, selling, or  
14          servicing of hearing instruments as defined in this Act. An  
15          applicant must obtain a license within 12 months after passing  
16          either the written or practical examination, whichever is  
17          passed first, or must take and pass those examinations again in  
18          order to be eligible to receive a license.

19          The Department shall, by rule, determine the conditions  
20          under which an individual is examined.

21          (d) Proof of having met the minimum requirements of  
22          continuing education as determined by the Board shall be  
23          required of all license renewals. Pursuant to rule, the  
24          continuing education requirements may, upon petition to the  
25          Board, be waived in whole or in part if the hearing instrument  
26          dispenser can demonstrate that he or she served in the Coast

1 Guard or Armed Forces, had an extreme hardship, or obtained his  
2 or her license by examination or endorsement within the  
3 preceding renewal period.

4 (e) Persons applying for an initial license must  
5 demonstrate having earned, at a minimum, an associate degree or  
6 its equivalent from an accredited institution of higher  
7 education that is recognized by the U.S. Department of  
8 Education or that meets the U.S. Department of Education  
9 equivalency as determined through a National Association of  
10 Credential Evaluation Services (NACES) member, and meet the  
11 other requirements of this Section. In addition, the applicant  
12 must demonstrate the successful completion of (1) 12 semester  
13 hours or 18 quarter hours of academic undergraduate course work  
14 in an accredited institution consisting of 3 semester hours of  
15 anatomy and physiology of the speech and hearing mechanism, 3  
16 semester hours of hearing science, 3 semester hours of  
17 introduction to audiology, and 3 semester hours of aural  
18 rehabilitation, or the quarter hour equivalent, or (2) an  
19 equivalent program as determined by the Department. Persons  
20 licensed before January 1, 2003 who have a valid license on  
21 that date may have their license renewed without meeting the  
22 requirements of this subsection.

23 (Source: P.A. 98-827, eff. 1-1-15; 99-204, eff. 7-30-15.)