

AN ACT concerning regulation.

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

Section 5. The Regulatory Sunset Act is amended by changing Sections 4.36 and 4.38 as follows:

(5 ILCS 80/4.36)

Sec. 4.36. Acts repealed on January 1, 2026. The following Acts are repealed on January 1, 2026:

The Barber, Cosmetology, Esthetics, Hair Braiding, and Nail Technology Act of 1985.

The Collection Agency Act.

~~The Hearing Instrument Consumer Protection Act.~~

The Illinois Athletic Trainers Practice Act.

The Illinois Dental Practice Act.

The Illinois Roofing Industry Licensing Act.

The Illinois Physical Therapy Act.

The Professional Geologist Licensing Act.

The Respiratory Care Practice Act.

(Source: P.A. 99-26, eff. 7-10-15; 99-204, eff. 7-30-15; 99-227, eff. 8-3-15; 99-229, eff. 8-3-15; 99-230, eff. 8-3-15; 99-427, eff. 8-21-15; 99-469, eff. 8-26-15; 99-492, eff. 12-31-15; 99-642, eff. 7-28-16.)

(5 ILCS 80/4.38)

Sec. 4.38. Acts repealed on January 1, 2028. The following Acts are repealed on January 1, 2028:

The Acupuncture Practice Act.

The Behavior Analyst Licensing Act.

The Clinical Social Work and Social Work Practice Act.

The Dietitian Nutritionist Practice Act.

The Elevator Safety and Regulation Act.

The Fire Equipment Distributor and Employee Regulation Act of 2011.

The Funeral Directors and Embalmers Licensing Code.

The Hearing Instrument Consumer Protection Act.

The Home Medical Equipment and Services Provider License Act.

The Illinois Petroleum Education and Marketing Act.

The Illinois Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Practice Act.

The Interpreter for the Deaf Licensure Act of 2007.

The Music Therapy Licensing and Practice Act.

The Naprapathic Practice Act.

The Nurse Practice Act.

The Nursing Home Administrators Licensing and Disciplinary Act.

The Pharmacy Practice Act.

The Physician Assistant Practice Act of 1987.

The Podiatric Medical Practice Act of 1987.

The Professional Counselor and Clinical Professional Counselor Licensing and Practice Act.

The Wholesale Drug Distribution Licensing Act.

(Source: P.A. 102-715, eff. 4-29-22; 102-878, eff. 5-13-22; 102-879, eff. 5-13-22; 102-880, eff. 5-13-22; 102-881, eff. 5-13-22; 102-882, eff. 5-13-22; 102-945, eff. 5-27-22; 102-953, eff. 5-27-22; 102-993, eff. 5-27-22; 103-154, eff. 6-30-23.)

Section 10. The Hearing Instrument Consumer Protection Act is amended by changing Sections 8 and 9.5 as follows:

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

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

Sec. 8. Applicant qualifications; examination.

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

(b) Applicants shall be:

- (1) at least 18 years of age;
- (2) of good moral character;
- (3) the holder of an associate's degree or the equivalent;
- (4) free of contagious or infectious disease; and
- (5) a citizen or person lawfully present in the United States.

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

(c) Prior to engaging in the practice of prescribing, fitting, dispensing, or servicing hearing aids, an applicant shall demonstrate, by means of written and practical examinations, that such person is qualified to practice the testing, selecting, recommending, fitting, selling, or servicing of hearing aids as defined in this Act. An applicant must obtain a license within 12 months after passing either the written or practical examination, whichever is passed first, or must take and pass those examinations again in order to be eligible to receive a license. An applicant may take the written examination no more than 4 times in any consecutive 12-month period.

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

(d) Proof of having met the minimum requirements of continuing education as determined by the Board shall be required of all license renewals. Pursuant to rule, the continuing education requirements may, upon petition to the Board, be waived in whole or in part if the hearing instrument dispenser can demonstrate that he or she served in the Coast Guard or Armed Forces, had an extreme hardship, or obtained his or her license by examination or endorsement within the preceding renewal period.

(e) Persons applying for an initial license must demonstrate having earned, at a minimum, an associate degree or its equivalent from an accredited institution of higher education that is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education or that meets the U.S. Department of Education equivalency as determined through a National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES) member, and meet the other requirements of this Section. In addition, the applicant must demonstrate the successful completion of (1) 12 semester hours or 18 quarter hours of academic undergraduate course work in an accredited institution consisting of 3 semester hours of anatomy and physiology of the hearing mechanism, 3 semester hours of hearing science, 3 semester hours of introduction to audiology, and 3 semester hours of aural rehabilitation, or the quarter hour equivalent or (2) an equivalent program as determined by the Department that is consistent with the scope of practice of a hearing instrument

dispenser as defined in Section 3 of this Act. Persons licensed before January 1, 2003 who have a valid license on that date may have their license renewed without meeting the requirements of this subsection.

(Source: P.A. 102-1030, eff. 5-27-22; 103-495, eff. 1-1-24.)

(225 ILCS 50/9.5)

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

Sec. 9.5. Trainees.

(a) In order to receive a trainee license, a person must apply to the Department and provide acceptable evidence of his or her completion of the required courses pursuant to subsection (e) of Section 8 of this Act, or its equivalent as determined by the Department. A trainee license expires 12 months from the date of issue and may be renewed once for an additional 6 months ~~is non-renewable~~.

(b) A trainee shall perform the functions of a hearing instrument dispenser in accordance with the Department rules and only under the direct supervision of a hearing instrument dispenser or audiologist who is licensed in the State. The licensed hearing instrument dispenser or audiologist is responsible for all of the work that is performed by the trainee.

(c) The Department may limit the number of trainees that may be under the direct supervision of the same licensed hearing instrument dispenser or licensed audiologist.

(d) The Department may establish a trainee licensing fee by rule.

(e) A trainee may be supervised by more than one licensed hearing instrument professional. The trainee must complete a hearing instrument consumer protection program license verification form for each supervising licensed hearing instrument professional.

(Source: P.A. 103-495, eff. 1-1-24.)

Section 99. Effective date. This Section and Section 5 take effect upon becoming law.