



**Massachusetts Speech-Language-Hearing Association**  
465 Waverley Oaks Road, Suite 421 • Waltham, MA 02452  
(781) 647-7031

*December 14, 2022*

## **Massachusetts Passes Provisional Licensure for Clinical Fellows**

Massachusetts Governor Baker signed H 5094 into law on November 10, 2022, which allows for a provisional license for clinical fellows, solving a long-term licensure and billing challenge. Massachusetts is the last state in the country to provide a license for Clinical Fellows (CFs).

H 5094 provides for the provisional licensure of Clinical Fellows in Speech-Language Pathology to bill Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurance for the services they provide. Clinical Fellows in Massachusetts have been unable to bill for services because they do not have a provisional or temporary license. Without a provisional license, the Clinical Fellow is considered a student and must be supervised as a student.

Without licensure available, clinical fellows have been unable to work in many settings in Massachusetts, leading to a shortage of practitioners and forcing new graduates to move to other states for employment. With the signing of this bill, the staffing shortage issue is expected to improve. This law will also allow hundreds of Clinical Fellows to stay in Massachusetts and will allow private practices, hospitals and rehabilitation centers across the state to hire CFs. Access to speech and language services is also expected to improve.

The Massachusetts Speech-Language-Hearing Association (MSHA) has been working for over ten years to get this important legislation passed. MSHA worked closely with ASHA to receive grant money to subsidize payment to lobbyists to help the legislation pass.

The Board of Registration of Speech Language Pathology and Audiology, newly relocated to the Department of Public Health, met on December 5, 2022 to review the new legislation and to discuss the implementation process. **Implementation of the provisional license now rests with the Board of Registration**, who expressed understanding about the importance of this legislation to current students who will graduate in Spring 2023.

Watch for details for a celebratory event in early 2023 for MSHA members and legislative supporters.

Thank you to everyone who supported MSHA to achieve this victory for the practice of Speech-Language Pathology!



Massachusetts  
Speech-Language  
Hearing Association