

BEFORE THE BOARD OF HEARING AID DISPENSERS
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
STATE OF MONTANA

In the matter of the amendment of)
ARM 24.150.401 fees and the)
adoption of NEW RULE I pertaining)
to military training or experience)
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON
PROPOSED AMENDMENT AND
ADOPTION

TO: All Concerned Persons

1. On February 10, 2014, at 11:00 a.m., a public hearing will be held in the Small Conference Room, 4th Floor, 301 South Park Avenue, Helena, Montana, to consider the proposed amendment and adoption of the above-stated rules.

2. The Department of Labor and Industry (department) will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to participate in this public hearing or need an alternative accessible format of this notice. If you require an accommodation, contact the Board of Hearing Aid Dispensers (board) no later than 5:00 p.m., on February 3, 2014, to advise us of the nature of the accommodation that you need. Please contact Linda Grief, Board of Hearing Aid Dispensers, 301 South Park Avenue, P.O. Box 200513, Helena, Montana 59620-0513; telephone (406) 841-2395; Montana Relay 1 (800) 253-4091; TDD (406) 444-2978; facsimile (406) 841-2305; e-mail dlibsddhad@mt.gov.

3. The rule proposed to be amended provides as follows:

24.150.401 FEES (1) through (1)(f) remain the same.

(g) Renewal active license

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(h) through (3) remain the same.

AUTH: 37-1-131, 37-1-134, 37-16-202, MCA

IMP: 37-1-131, 37-1-134, 37-1-141, 37-16-402, 37-16-405, 37-16-406,

MCA

REASON: The board determined it is reasonably necessary to increase renewal fees to comply with the provisions of 37-1-134, MCA, and keep the board's fees commensurate with program costs. Over the last several years, the board has experienced a decrease in the number of licensees and an increase in expenses in excess of revenue generated through board licensure fees. In providing administrative services to the board, the department has determined it is necessary to increase fees as proposed to ensure that the board can cover their operating expenses. The board estimates that the proposed fee increases will affect approximately 54 active licensees and result in \$27,000 in additional annual revenue. In addition to the fee increases, the department and the board will continue to seek and implement ways to reduce costs associated with board functions.

4. The new rule proposed to be adopted provides as follows:

NEW RULE I MILITARY TRAINING OR EXPERIENCE (1) Pursuant to 37-1-145, MCA, the board shall accept relevant military training, service, or education toward the requirements for licensure as a hearing aid dispenser.

(2) Relevant military training, service, or education must be completed by an applicant while a member of either:

- (a) United States Armed Forces;
- (b) United States Reserves;
- (c) state national guard; or
- (d) military reserves.

(3) An applicant must submit satisfactory evidence of receiving military training, service, or education that is equivalent to relevant licensure requirements as a hearing aid dispenser. At a minimum, satisfactory evidence shall include:

- (a) a copy of the applicant's military discharge document (DD 214);
- (b) a document that clearly shows all relevant training, certification, service, or education the applicant received while in the military, including dates of training and completion or graduation; and
- (c) any other documentation as required by the board.

(4) The board shall consider all documentation received to determine whether an applicant's military training, service, or education is equivalent to relevant licensure requirements.

AUTH: 37-1-145, MCA

IMP: 37-1-145, MCA

REASON: The 2013 Montana Legislature enacted House Bill 259 and Senate Bill 183, acts requiring the professional and occupational licensing boards and programs to accept satisfactory evidence of relevant military education, training, or service to satisfy licensing or certification requirements. The bill was signed by the Governor and became effective on April 26, 2013, and is codified at 37-1-145, MCA.

The new statute requires each licensing board and program to adopt rules providing that certification or licensure requirements of the board or program may be met by relevant military training, service, or education, completed as a member of the armed forces or reserves of the United States, a state's national guard, or the military reserves. In consulting with the bill sponsors regarding the rulemaking, it was clarified that the sponsor received input on the bill draft from Montana military personnel and the U.S. Department of Defense. The sponsor was assured that the bill language, as reflected in this proposed rule, is intended to include relevant military training, service, or education received while serving in all branches of the military and reserves, including the U.S. Coast Guard. It is reasonably necessary for the board to adopt New Rule I to coincide with and further implement the legislation.

5. Concerned persons may present their data, views, or arguments either orally or in writing at the hearing. Written data, views, or arguments may also be submitted to the Board of Hearing Aid Dispensers, 301 South Park Avenue, P.O.

Box 200513, Helena, Montana 59620-0513, by facsimile to (406) 841-2305, or by e-mail to dlibsddhad@mt.gov, and must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., February 14, 2014.

6. An electronic copy of this notice of public hearing is available at www.hearingaid.mt.gov (department and board's web site). The department strives to make the electronic copy of this notice conform to the official version of the notice, as printed in the Montana Administrative Register, but advises all concerned persons that in the event of a discrepancy between the official printed text of the notice and the electronic version of the notice, only the official printed text will be considered. In addition, although the department strives to keep its web site accessible at all times, concerned persons should be aware that the web site may be unavailable during some periods, due to system maintenance or technical problems, and that technical difficulties in accessing or posting to the e-mail address do not excuse late submission of comments.

7. The board maintains a list of interested persons who wish to receive notices of rulemaking actions proposed by this board. Persons who wish to have their name added to the list shall make a written request that includes the name, e-mail, and mailing address of the person to receive notices and specifies that the person wishes to receive notices regarding all board administrative rulemaking proceedings or other administrative proceedings. The request must indicate whether e-mail or standard mail is preferred. Such written request may be sent or delivered to the Board of Hearing Aid Dispensers, 301 South Park Avenue, P.O. Box 200513, Helena, Montana 59620-0513; faxed to the office at (406) 841-2305; e-mailed to dlibsddhad@mt.gov; or made by completing a request form at any rules hearing held by the agency.

8. The bill sponsor contact requirements of 2-4-302, MCA, apply and have been fulfilled. The primary bill sponsors were contacted on December 16, 2013, by electronic mail.

9. With regard to the requirements of 2-4-111, MCA, the board has determined that the amendment of ARM 24.150.401 will not significantly and directly impact small businesses.

With regard to the requirements of 2-4-111, MCA, the board has determined that the adoption of New Rule I will not significantly and directly impact small businesses.

Documentation of the board's above-stated determination is available upon request to the Board of Hearing Aid Dispensers, 301 South Park Avenue, P.O. Box 200513, Helena, Montana 59620-0513; telephone (406) 841-2395; facsimile (406) 841-2305; or e-mail dlibsddhad@mt.gov.

10. Kevin Maki, attorney, has been designated to preside over and conduct this hearing.

BOARD OF HEARING AID DISPENSERS
ALFRED MCLEES, PRESIDING OFFICER

/s/ DARCEE L. MOE
Darcee L. Moe
Rule Reviewer

/s/ PAM BUCY
Pam Bucy, Commissioner
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

Certified to the Secretary of State January 6, 2014