



TENNESSEE COUNCIL FOR LICENSING HEARING INSTRUMENT SPECIALISTS

July 11, 2025

MINUTES

The regular Council meeting of the Tennessee Council for Licensing Hearing Instrument Specialists was called to order at 9:02 a.m. in the Poplar Room, Ground Floor, Metro Center Complex, 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37243 by Ms. Amanda Yarnell, Council Chair.

Board Members Present: Amanda Yarnell, HIS, Council Chair
Sammi J. Wyatt, Hearing Instrument Specialist
Bruce L. Fetterman, MD

Board Members Absent: Lordy D. Smith, Consumer Member

Staff Members Present: Michael Varnell, Board Attorney
Mario Douglas, Board Administrator
Candyce Wilson, Unit 1 Director

Ms. Amanda Yarnell called the meeting to order at 9:02 am. A roll call was conducted, and a quorum was confirmed.

Tennessee Department of Health Legislative Update

Mr. Grayson Carter provided the Tennessee Department of Health Legislative Update, summarizing laws and legislative actions passed during the most recent session. The council had no questions or further discussion.

- PC 19 — HB182 / SB171
- PC 22 — HB229 / SB52
- PC 23 — HB233 / SB55
- PC 24 — HB234 / SB56
- PC 25 — HB235 / SB57
- PC 28 — HB247 / SB69
- PC 29 — HB257 / SB79

- PC 36 — HB274 / SB96
- PC 41 — HB281 / SB106
- PC 42 — HB404 / SB393
- PC 43 — HB232 / SB54
- PC 45 — HB192 / SB282
- PC 46 — HB111 / SB1283
- PC 48 — HB227 / SB49
- PC 50 — HB255 / SB77
- PC 53 — HB271 / SB93
- PC 56 — HB383 / SB744
- PC 59 — HB186 / SB174
- PC 65 — HB584 / SB515
- PC 68 — HB693 / SB569
- PC 69 — HB1226 / SB669
- PC 76 — HB62 / SB224
- PC 79 — HB102 / SB1267
- PC 81 — HB107 / SB1287
- PC 94 — HB321 / SB329
- PC 96 — HB395 / SB318
- PC 99 — HB572 / SB575
- PC 100 — HB657 / SB619
- PC 108 — HB1157 / SB1031
- PC 116 — HB155 / SB668
- PC 118 — HB821 / SB707
- PC 125 — HB1074 / SB1063
- PC 127 — HB1311 / SB1284
- PC 128 — HB113 / SB1290
- PC 139 — HB363 / SB462
- PC 144 — HB498 / SB321
- PC 147 — HB702 / SB267
- PC 172 — HB515 / SB680
- PC 196 — HB843 / SB1198
- PC 204 — HB959 / SB789
- PC 209 — HB830 / SB299
- PC 212 — HB373 / SB497
- PC 213 — HB510 / SB554
- PC 217 — HB990 / SB1004
- PC 222 — HB203 / SB332
- PC 228 — HB896 / SB880
- PC 232 — HB466 / SB1385
- PC 247 — HB533 / SB449
- PC 261 — HB960 / SB849
- PC 263 — HB1141 / SB882
- PC 266 — HB1044 / SB955

- PC 272 — HB1349 / SB1146
- PC 278 — HB37 / SB428
- PC 286 — HB731 / SB908
- PC 294 — HB1237 / SB1235
- PC 295 — HB1239 / SB421
- PC 304 — HB164 / SB128
- PC 317 — HB1203 / SB359
- PC 324 — HB968 / SB763
- PC 339 — HB495 / SB606
- PC 346 — HB760 / SB817
- PC 347 — HB826 / SB895
- PC 360 — HB885 / SB212
- PC 361 — HB318 / SB263
- PC 386 — HB1180 / SB1005
- PC 390 — HB1355 / SB1052
- PC 392 — HB1293 / SB1114
- PC 393 — HB1356 / SB1116
- PC 397 — HB1357 / SB1239
- PC 400 — HB1310 / SB1282
- PC 404 — HB1242 / SB1414
- HUR120
- HB 923/SB1084
- HB 622/SB1083F
- HB 1330/SB1316
- HB 132/SB396
- HB 865/SB644
- HB 310/SB289
- HB 869/SB890
- HB 1192/SB871
- HB 979/SB764
- HB 717/SB654
- HB 979/SB476

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

Mr. Michael Varnell reminded the Council of the Conflict-of-Interest Policy as well as the Open Meetings Act.

Conflict of Interest

If you have a personal or financial interest in the outcome of any issue or matter before this Council which may suggest a bias on your part, you are asked to state that interest on the record so that a determination can be made as to whether there exists a need for recusal. You are reminded that it is the duty of this Council to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Tennessee and that the administration of this solemn responsibility is dependent upon avoiding even the appearance of impropriety.

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT

Mr. Varnell presented the report from the Office of General Counsel. Mr. Varnell stated that there are currently no open cases within the Office of General Counsel.

Retrospective Repeal – Rule 1370-02-.03 is being repealed due to duplicative language already contained within the governing statute. The repeal is currently under review by the Secretary of State’s Office of Publications and is scheduled to become effective on August 21, 2025. A hearing before the Government Operations Committee is scheduled approximately one month prior to the effective date

OGC project # 24-0600. This rulemaking project includes retrospective review changes pursuant to **Public Chapter 328**. The project was approved by the Council at its October 2024 meeting and is currently undergoing internal review within the Office of General Counsel.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Council reviewed the January 17, 2025, Council meeting minutes. Dr. Bruce Fetterman motioned to approve the minutes. Ms. Sammi Wyatt seconded the motion, and it carried.

CODE WORD

ANNOUNCED 1ST Code word for Continuing Education Credit (Clock Hour)

OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS REPORT

Ms. Barbara Granum, Intake Coordinator with the Department’s Office of Investigations, presented the current complaints report for the Council. There are **no open complaints** currently. Ms. Granum also provided a historical summary of complaint activity for the previous five (5) years, which reflected the following:

2024: 0 complaints
2023: 6 complaints
2022: 3 complaints
2021: 1 complaint
2020: 0 complaints

The Council had no questions or further discussion regarding the report.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REPORT

Mr. Mario Douglas presented the Statistical Licensing Report for the Council. As of July 10, 2025, there are 195 active Hearing Instrument Specialists and 32 active Hearing Instrument Apprentices.

Since the previous Council meeting held on January 17, 2025, the following activity has occurred:

- 14 newly licensed Hearing Instrument Specialists
- 18 newly licensed Hearing Instrument Apprentices
- 1 retired licensee
- 5 expired licenses
- 37 total renewals (36 completed online)
- 1 active reinstatement application

Mr. Douglas also noted that the next Council meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2025.

Ms. Candyce Wilson provided an update regarding CE Broker. At the end of May 2025, CE Broker was launched for the Hearing Instrument Specialist profession. The health-related Boards will utilize CE Broker as the official Continuing Education tracking and repository system, with a free account available to all users.

Use of CE Broker is not mandatory; however, in the event of a random continuing education audit, licensees will be required to upload the requested CE documentation into CE Broker. Calibration certificates and bills of sale will not be uploaded to CE Broker. Instructions for submitting those documents will be provided directly to the licensee selected for audit. The Council had no questions or further discussion.

FINANCIAL OFFICE REPORT

The Council held no discussion on this agenda topic.

CODE WORD

ANNOUNCED 2nd Code word for Continuing Education Credit (Upgrade)

CONDUCT NEW BUSINESS

Ratification of New Licensees:

The Council reviewed the newly licensed individuals since the last meeting. Dr. Bruce Fetterman motioned to ratify all new licensees. Ms. Sammi Wyatt seconded the motion, and it carried.

Correspondence:

The Council held no discussion on this agenda topic.

Discuss and act if needed regarding rulemaking, hearings, rule amendments, and policies:

Mr. Varnell and Ms. Wilson led a discussion with the Council regarding a proposed change to the Continuing Education (CE) cycle. The proposal would modify the current two-year CE cycle to a renewal-to-renewal format, allowing licensees to complete the required continuing education within each renewal period rather than every two years. Ms. Yarnell expressed support for the renewal-to-renewal format, noting that it would provide greater consistency and clarity for licensees.

Following discussion, Dr. Bruce Fetterman motioned to approve a rulemaking hearing to change the current CE requirement from every two years to a renewal-to-renewal cycle. Ms. Sammi Wyatt seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Discuss, and consider and take any action to appoint an investigative consultant:

Ms. Wilson stated that she and Ms. Wyatt had previously discussed this matter. Ms. Wyatt indicated that she did not have any additional information at this time but expressed interest in obtaining more details regarding the requirements for becoming an Investigative Consultant.

Ms. Wilson read the summary of the Investigative Consultant position into the record and noted that any interested candidates may email resumes directly to the HRB office. Ms. Wilson further stated that she would forward the position summary to Ms. Wyatt so it could be shared with the Hearing Society.

CODE WORD

ANNOUNCED 3rd Code word for Continuing Education Credit (Telehealth)

DISCIPLINARY ORDER(S)

The Council held no discussion on this agenda topic

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Council held no discussion on this agenda topic

ADJOURMENT

Dr. Bruce Fetterman motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sammi Wyatt, and it carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:42am CT.