

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A PROPOSED AMENDMENT
TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF HEARING AID DEALERS AND DISPENSERS
CHAPTER 276-14 RENEWAL AND REINSTATEMENT PROCESS, RULE 276-14-.03
REINSTATEMENT OF LICENSE, AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the authority set forth below, the Georgia State Board of Hearing Aid Dealers and Dispensers (hereinafter "Board") proposes an amendment to Rule Chapter 276-14 Renewal and Reinstatement Process, Rule 276-14-.03 Reinstatement of License (hereinafter "proposed rule amendment").

This notice, together with an exact copy of the proposed rule amendment and a synopsis of the proposed rule amendment, is being disseminated to all persons who have requested, in writing, that they be placed on a distribution list. A copy of this notice, an exact copy of the proposed rule amendment, and a synopsis of the proposed rule amendment may be reviewed during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, except official State holidays, at the Office of the Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. These documents will also be available for review on the Board website at www.sos.state.ga.us/plb/hearingaid or by contacting the Board office at 478-207-2440.

A public hearing is scheduled to begin at **10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 14, 2017**, in the Office of the Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217 to provide the public an opportunity to comment upon and provide input into the proposed rule amendment.

At the public hearing anyone may present data, make a statement, comment or offer a viewpoint or argument whether orally or in writing. Lengthy statements or statements of a considerable technical or economic nature, as well as previously recorded messages, must be submitted for the official record. Oral statements should be concise and will be limited to five (5) minutes per person. Written comments are welcomed. Such written comments must be legible and signed, should contain contact information from the maker (address, telephone number and/or facsimile number, etc.) and be actually received in the office prior to the close of business (5:00 p.m. EDT) on **Tuesday, March 7, 2017**. Written comments should be addressed to Lisa W. Durden, Division Director, Professional Licensing Boards Division, Georgia State Board of Hearing Aid Dealers and Dispensers, and 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217; Fax (866) 888-7127.

The Board will consider the proposed rule amendment for adoption at its meeting scheduled to begin at **10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 14, 2017** at the Georgia Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. According to the Department of Law, State of Georgia, the Board has the authority to adopt the proposed rule amendment to Board rule 276-14-.03 pursuant to authority contained in O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-19 and 43-20-6.

At its meeting **December 13, 2016**, the Board voted that the formulation and adoption of this rule does not impose excessive regulatory cost on any licensee and any cost to comply with the

proposed rule cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-19 and 43-20-6.

Additionally, at its meeting **June 14, 2016**, the Board voted that it is not legal or feasible to meet the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-19 and 43-20-6 to adopt or implement differing actions for businesses as listed in O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(3)(A), (B), (C), and (D). The formulation and adoption of these rules will impact every licensee in the same manner and each licensee is independently licensed in the field of hearing aid dispensing and dealers.

For further information, contact the Board office at (478) 207-2440.

This notice is given in compliance with Section 4(a)(1) of the Georgia Administrative Procedures Act (O.C.G.A. §50-13-4).

This 22 day of December, 2016



Lisa W. Durden
Director
Professional Licensing Boards

Posted: 22DEC16

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF HEARING
AID DEALERS AND DISPENSERS CHAPTER 276-14 RENEWAL AND REINSTATEMENT
PROCESS, RULE 276-14-.03 REINSTATEMENT OF LICENSE**

Purpose: The purpose of this rule amendment is to update the rule pursuant to the required number of continuing education hours for a reinstatement of a license, and provide for those reinstating who are licensed in other states.

Main Features: The rule amendment changes the current minimum number of continuing education hours required for the reinstatement of a Georgia hearing aid dispensers license from fourteen (14) to twenty (20), in addition to adding provisions for individuals licensed continuously and practicing in another state or jurisdiction applying for reinstatement of a Georgia hearing aid dispensers license.

**DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE EXISTING RULE AND THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF HEARING AID DEALERS AND DISPENSERS
CHAPTER 276-14 RENEWAL AND REINSTATEMENT PROCESS, RULE 276-14-.03
REINSTATEMENT OF LICENSE**

[Note: underlined text is proposed to be added; lined-through text is proposed to be deleted]

Rule 276-14-.03. Reinstatement of License

Following the late renewal penalty period, all non-renewed licenses will be revoked by operation of law for non-renewal, and an application for reinstatement must be submitted to seek re-licensure.

(a) Reinstatement shall be within the sole discretion of the Board.

(b) A person applying for reinstatement ~~on or after April 1 of every even numbered year~~ must shall submit the following:

1. For both **dealer and dispenser** applicants for reinstatement, a completed reinstatement application and the **non-refundable** reinstatement application fee; and
2. For only **dispenser** applicants for reinstatement, applying within one (1) year of the effective date of the lapsed license, verification of ~~fourteen (14)~~ twenty (20) hours of Board approved continuing education obtained within two years prior to the date the reinstatement application is received by the Board administrative staff (Refer to Board Rule 276-10 for continuing education information).
3. For only **dispenser** applicants for reinstatement, applying after one (1) year of the effective date of the lapsed license, verification of the retake and passage of both the written and practical examinations required for licensure within one year prior to of the date of the reinstatement application is received by the Board administrative staff, and verification of ~~fourteen (14)~~ twenty (20) hours of Board approved continuing education obtained within two years prior to the date

the reinstatement application is received by the Board administrative staff (Refer to Board Rule 276-10 for continuing education information).

(c) Individuals currently/actively licensed and practicing full time in the field of dispensing hearing aids in another state or jurisdiction filing for the reinstatement of a Georgia hearing aid dispensers license shall submit verification of twenty (20) hours of Board approved continuing education obtained within two years prior to the date of the reinstatement application (Refer to Board Rule 276-10 for continuing education information).

Authority: O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19 and 43-20-6

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(c) Individuals currently/actively licensed and practicing full time in the field of dispensing hearing aids in another state or jurisdiction filing for the reinstatement of a Georgia hearing aid dispensers license shall submit verification of twenty (20) hours of Board approved continuing education obtained within two years prior to the date of the reinstatement application (Refer to Board Rule 276-10 for continuing education information).

Authority: O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19 and 43-20-6