



Advocating for Funding of House Bill 376



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KSHA GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

What is House Bill 376?

In Kentucky's Regular Legislative session in 2010, House Bill 376 was passed, awarding school-based speech-language pathologists and audiologists possessing a Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) or certification from the American Board of Audiology a \$2,000.00 salary supplement. House Bill 376, or the "Salary Supplement Bill," provided certified school-based speech-language pathologists and audiologists with the same monetary benefit as salary supplements awarded to teachers holding national board certification.

The passing of House Bill 376 was significant to the Kentucky Speech Language Hearing Association (KSHA) as the association placed a great deal of time and effort in lobbying for adoption of the bill

and many KSHA members advocated for the bill across the state. While the passing of the Salary Supplement Bill represented a significant achievement for the KSHA, additional advocacy is needed to secure funding for the bill.

In Kentucky, budgets are adopted biennially. To date, funding for House Bill 376 has not been included in Kentucky's state budget. Consequently, at present, House Bill 376 *permits* local school districts to award speech-language pathologists and audiologists the salary supplement, but does *not require* them to do so.

KSHA is continuing to lobby the state legislature to include funding for House Bill 376 in the 2016 state budget to ensure all of Kentucky's ASHA certified

speech-language pathologists and audiologists receive a salary supplement that acknowledges the rigor of their clinical training.

DID YOU KNOW?

In Kentucky, approximately 1,015 ASHA certified speech-language pathologists report schools as their primary place of employment.



What is the Legislative History of House Bill 376?



During the 2010 Session of the Kentucky General Assembly, Representative Leslie Combs (D), Pikeville, sponsored House Bill 376. It was cosponsored by Representative Jeff Greer, (D), Brandenburg. House Bill 376 passed the Kentucky House of Representatives on a 95-0 vote and the Kentucky State Senate on a 34-1 vote. It was signed into law by Governor Steve Beshear on April 12, 2010.

While passage of House Bill 376 was a hard fought victory for KSHA, no funds were included in the 2010 or 2012 Kentucky budget. During the 2014 budget

cycle, KSHA members lobbied again for funding. The House of Representatives included funding for House Bill 376 in their 2014 budget proposal. However, funding was removed in the Senate's budget proposal. Although House Bill 376 was not funded in 2014, the fact that funding for the bill was included in the House's budget proposal was a positive outcome of KSHA's advocacy.

DID YOU KNOW?

Kentucky's budgets is established during the general assembly sessions occurring in even numbered years (i.e., 2016, 2018, etc.). Scan or click this code to learn more about the budget process in our state.



Questions? Concerns?
Want to get involved in
advocacy?

Contact KSHA's
Governmental Relations Chair
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What can I do to help?

During the 2016 session of the Kentucky General Assembly (i.e., typically lasting from January to April), legislators will vote and pass the 2016-2018 biennial budget. **KSHA members should contact their legislators directly via phone, email, or face-to-face visits.** KSHA members should ask Legislators to include funds for House Bill 376 to honor the commitment they made to speech-language pathologists and audiologists during in 2010.

Visit <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/>. Use

the "Find my Legislator" link to identify the contact information for your Senators and House of Representative members. You may call your legislator at (502)564-8100. You may request a copy of a "leave behind" document to distribute to your legislators by emailing KSHA's Governmental Relations Committee Chair at kellie.ellis@eku.edu

Reach out to your legislators and let your voice be heard!