



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

Board of Examiners for Audiologists,  
Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language  
Pathologists & Music Therapists  
4201 Patterson Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

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### 2024 SESSION POSITION PAPER

**BILL NO:** SB 795  
**COMMITTEE:** Finance  
**POSITION:** Support

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**TITLE:** Health Occupations – Practice Audiology – Definition

**BILL ANALYSIS:** SB 795 proposes to alter the definition of “practice audiology” for the purposes of certain provisions of law governing the licensure and regulation of Audiologists.

**POSITION AND RATIONALE:** The Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists and Music Therapists (the “Board”) is in full support of SB 795.

The Board supports SB 795 for several reasons. The key reason being is that audiologists are the primary providers for their patients and are the best healthcare professionals for the diagnosis, evaluation, management, and treatment of hearing and vestibular conditions. Audiologists are the most knowledgeable in caring for their patients with hearing and vestibular conditions. Therefore, audiologists should have total autonomy in how best to serve their patients. No other medical or healthcare professional has the knowledge that audiologists possess, to treat the above referenced conditions.

The State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists and Music Therapists, respectfully requests a favorable report on SB 795.

Thank you for your consideration. If you should require anything further, please contact Keena Stephenson, Executive Director, at [keena.stephenson1@maryland.gov](mailto:keena.stephenson1@maryland.gov), or 443.832.0597.

*The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.*