



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

2024 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO: SB 714
COMMITTEE: Finance
POSITION: Oppose

TITLE: State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech–Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists – Appointment of Members

BILL ANALYSIS: This proposed bill will require the Governor to appoint the licensed audiologist members to the State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists (the “Board”) from a list submitted by the Maryland Academy of Audiology rather than the Board.

POSITION AND RATIONALE: The Board opposes SB 714.

In 2021, the Board put forth SB 523/HB 600 to remove the Maryland Academy of Audiology from statute with the authority to appoint audiologist members to the Board. This bill passed (see chapters 711 and 712). The Board strongly disagrees that this language should be reinstated.

Pertaining to member appointments, the Board wishes to maintain consistency throughout all the represented disciplines. To solely select Board members from private organizations, would exclude countless audiologists from having the privilege and the opportunity to serve.

The State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists and Music Therapists, strongly urges an unfavorable report on SB 714.

Thank you for your consideration. If you should require anything further, please contact Keena Stephenson, Executive Director, at 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.