



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Ryan Moran, DrPH, MHSA, Acting Secretary

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

**2025 SESSION
POSITION PAPER**

BILL NO: SB 217
COMMITTEE: HGO
POSITION: Support as Amended

TITLE: Health Occupations Boards - Membership Alteration and Sunset Extensions

BILL ANALYSIS: The bill, when enacted, extends the termination of the statutory and regulatory authority of several Health Occupation Boards, including the Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists and Music Therapists (the “Board”) until July 1, 2031. The bill also increases the number of board member positions of the State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners from seven to nine.

POSITION AND RATIONALE:

The Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists and Music Therapists is in full support of SB 217.

The Board greatly desires the continuation of all regulatory and statutory authority, as it relates to the provisions set forth by the Maryland Program Evaluation Act (sunset law). An extension is imperative to allow the Board to execute the delegated responsibilities of licensure and discipline. The Board serves a steadily increasing workforce population and provides support to over 6,000 occupation health professionals.

The State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists and Music Therapists, respectfully requests a favorable report on SB 217.

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, or Lillian Reese, the Legislative Liaison for the boards at lillian.reese@maryland.gov or at 443-794-4757.

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