



February 18, 2026

Bill: SB 917 -Health Occupations – Practice of Audiology – Definition

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Speech Language Hearing Association (MSHA) represents speech language pathologists and audiologists across Maryland. Collectively, we elevate and engage members to strive for excellence in serving those impacted by communication and related disorders through advocacy, equity, education, interprofessional collaboration, and leadership development. As the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)-affiliated state association, MSHA represents the professions of audiology and speech language pathology who work in the state.

MSHA **supports SB917**, which would further clarify the scope of practice for audiology in Maryland. Health screenings and the ordering and performing of in-office, nonradiographic scanning and imaging of the external auditory canal as it relates to auditory or vestibular conditions in the human ear are within the ASHA's Scope of Practice in Audiology.

These are skilled services desperately needed by Marylanders and well understood to be included in the practice of audiology. These services are especially important for older patients who may be difficult to communicate with because of hearing loss/risk factors/health inequalities.

For these reasons, **MSHA supports SB917**.

Thank you,

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