

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 1476 (Delegate Kerr)

Health and Government Operations

Finance

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

This bill specifies that the Governor must appoint the audiologist members of the State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists, with the advice of the Secretary of Health, from a list submitted by the Maryland Academy of Audiology rather than the board.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill is procedural in nature and does not affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Generally, an individual must be licensed by the board to provide hearing aid services, practice audiology, practice speech-language pathology, or practice music therapy in Maryland.

The board comprises 15 members: (1) 3 licensed audiologists; (2) 3 licensed speech-language pathologists; (3) 2 physicians; (4) 2 consumer members; (5) 3 licensed hearing aid dispensers; and (6) 2 licensed music therapists. Professional members are appointed by the Governor, with the advice of the Secretary; consumer members are appointed by the Governor with the advice of the Secretary and the advice and consent of the Senate.

Several professional associations currently submit nominations for board members, including the Maryland Society of Otolaryngology, the Hearing Society of Maryland, Washington, DC, and Delaware, and the Maryland Association for Music Therapy. The board itself submits nominations for speech-language pathologist and audiologist members of the board.

The number of names on each list submitted to the Governor and Secretary of Health for the professional members of the board must be three times the number of vacancies. For professional members, the board must notify the relevant licensed professionals of the vacancy as a means of soliciting nominations. For consumer members, the board must notify organizations representing patients or family members of patients served by individuals licensed by the board.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: SB 714 (Senators Kramer and Hershey) - Finance.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 5, 2024
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