

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 662 (Senator Hollinger)
Economic and Environmental Affairs

**State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, and
Speech-Language Pathologists - Regulatory Authority**

This bill specifies that an applicant qualifies for a license to practice audiology if the applicant holds a doctoral degree in audiology and has the minimum hours of supervised training required by the State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, and Speech-Language Pathologists. The bill specifies that a licensee with a limited license to practice audiology or speech-language pathology is authorized to practice if the applicant is: (1) employed in a setting in which licensure is not required; and (2) the applicant is under the supervision of an individual who holds national certification from the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association in the appropriate health occupation or any other organization acceptable to the board.

A licensed speech-language pathologist may delegate duties to an assistant if the assigned duties do not require the professional skill and judgment of a licensed speech-language pathologist. A person may not engage in unfair or deceptive trade practice while providing hearing aid services as an audiologist or a hearing aid dispenser.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's requirements could be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal. It may ease the burden of qualification for an audiology license for some individuals.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, and Speech-Language Pathologists); Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 3, 1997

nrd

Analysis by: Lina Walker

Reviewed by: John Rixey

Direct Inquiries to:

John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst

(410) 841-3710

(301) 858-3710