

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Revised

House Bill 114 (Delegate Morhaim)

Environmental Matters

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

This amended 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 also requires the board to adopt regulations to establish qualifications for a speech-language pathologist (SLP) assistant. In addition, the bill specifies that a licensed speech-language pathologist may delegate duties to an assistant within the scope of practice and supervision guidelines specified in the regulations to be adopted by the board for an SLP assistant.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund revenues could increase by about \$600 in FY 2000. Future year revenues reflect a constant number of applicants each year and biennial renewals. No effect on expenditures.

(in dollars)	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003
SF Revenues	\$0	\$600	\$600	\$1,900	\$600
SF Expenditures	0	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	\$0	\$600	\$600	\$1,900	\$600

Note: () - decrease; GF - general funds; FF - federal funds; SF - special funds

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal. The bill may ease the burden of qualification for an audiology license for some individuals. At the same time, it creates licensure requirements for SLP assistants.

Fiscal Analysis

Bill Summary: 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.

State Effect: The board intends to adopt regulations for SLP assistants in fiscal 1999. It is estimated that revenues from SLP assistant license fees would approximate \$625 in fiscal 2000 (25 applicants x \$25 license fee). Future year revenues assume 25 new applicants each year and a biennial renewal fee of \$25.

Complying with the bill's requirements would not require any additional expenditures for the board.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 17, 1998
Inc Revised - House Third Reader - March 18, 1998

Analysis by: Lina Walker	Direct Inquiries to:
Reviewed by: John Rixey	John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst
	(410) 841-3710
	(301) 858-3710