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By: **Delegate Hubbard**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2003

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2                                   **State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, and**  
3                                   **Speech-Language Pathologists - Membership**

4 FOR the purpose of decreasing the number of Board members to a certain number;  
5 and generally relating to the composition of the State Board of Examiners for  
6 Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, and Speech-Language Pathologists.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
8 Article - Health Occupations  
9 Section 2-202(a)  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
13 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

14                                   **Article - Health Occupations**

15 2-202.

16       (a)       (1)       The Board consists of [13] 11 members.

17                   (2)       Of the [13] 11 Board members:

18                           (i)       3 shall be licensed audiologists who have at least 5 years' paid  
19 work experience in audiology;

20                           (ii)       3 shall be licensed speech-language pathologists who have at  
21 least 5 years' paid work experience in speech-language pathology;

22                           [(iii)       2 shall be physicians who:

23                                   1.       Are licensed to practice medicine in this State; and

24                                   2.       Hold a certificate of qualification from the American  
25 Board of Otolaryngology;]

1 [(iv)] (III) 2 shall be consumer members, 1 of whom shall be hearing  
2 impaired; and

3 [(v)] (IV) 3 shall be licensed hearing aid dispensers who have at  
4 least 5 years' paid work experience in dispensing hearing aids.

5 [(3)] The Governor shall appoint the physician members, with the advice  
6 of the Secretary, from a list submitted to the Secretary and the Governor by the  
7 Maryland Society of Otolaryngology with the approval of the Medical and Chirurgical  
8 Faculty of the State of Maryland. There shall be at least 3 names on the list.]

9 [(4)] (3) The Governor shall appoint the speech-language pathologist  
10 members, with the advice of the Secretary, from a list submitted to the Secretary and  
11 the Governor by the Maryland Speech-Language and Hearing Association. The  
12 number of names on the list shall be at least 3 times the number of vacancies.

13 [(5)] (4) (i) Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, the  
14 Governor shall appoint the audiologist members, with the advice of the Secretary,  
15 from a list submitted to the Secretary and the Governor, jointly by the Maryland  
16 Academy of Audiology and the Maryland Speech-Language and Hearing Association.  
17 The number of names on the list shall be at least 3 times the number of vacancies.

18 (ii) For each audiologist vacancy, the Maryland Academy of  
19 Audiology and the Maryland Speech-Language and Hearing Association shall:

20 1. Notify by mail all licensed audiologists in the State of the  
21 vacancy to solicit nominations to fill the vacancy; and

22 2. Conduct a balloting process by mail by which every  
23 licensed audiologist in the State is eligible to vote on the names of the licensed  
24 audiologists to be submitted to the Secretary and the Governor.

25 [(6)] (5) The Governor shall appoint the hearing aid dispenser members,  
26 with the advice of the Secretary, from a list submitted to the Secretary and the  
27 Governor by the Maryland members of the Hearing Aid Specialist Association of  
28 Maryland, District of Columbia, and Delaware. The number of names on the list shall  
29 be at least 3 times the number of vacancies.

30 [(7)] (6) (i) The Governor shall appoint the consumer members with  
31 the advice of the Secretary and the advice and consent of the Senate.

32 (ii) 1. The Governor shall appoint the hearing impaired  
33 consumer member from a list submitted to the Secretary and the Governor by the  
34 Governor's Office for Individuals with Disabilities.

35 2. The Governor's Office for Individuals with Disabilities  
36 shall solicit nominees from each of the hearing impaired associations in the State.

37 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take  
38 effect October 1, 2003.

