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By: **Senator Conway**  
Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2003  
Assigned to: Rules

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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 providing for the termination of the term of office of certain board members; and  
6 generally relating to the composition of the State Board of Examiners for  
7 Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, and Speech-Language Pathologists.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article - Health Occupations  
10 Section 2-202(a)  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

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

15 **Article - Health Occupations**

16 2-202.

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

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

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

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

23 [(iii) 2 shall be physicians who:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

32 [(7)] (6) (i) The Governor shall appoint the consumer members with  
33 the advice of the Secretary and the advice and consent of the Senate.

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

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

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the terms of office of  
2 the members of the State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid  
3 Dispensers, and Speech-Language Pathologists appointed under § 2-202(a)(2)(iii) of  
4 the Health Occupations Article, or their successors selected to fill a vacancy, who are  
5 in office as of September 30, 2003 shall terminate on October 1, 2003.

6 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take  
7 effect October 1, 2003.