

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 588

(Senator Conway)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

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

This bill reduces the membership of the State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, and Speech-Language Pathologists from 13 to 11 by eliminating the 2 physician members. The terms of office of the two physician board members who are in office as of September 30, 2003 will terminate on October 1, 2003.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund expenditures would decrease by \$700 in FY 2004, increasing annually with inflation. No effect on special fund revenues.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, and Speech-Language Pathologists consists of 13 members: 3 licensed audiologists; 3 speech-language pathologists; 2 physicians who are licensed in the State and hold a qualification certificate from the American Board of Otolaryngology; 2 consumer members, 1 of whom is hearing impaired; and 3 licensed hearing aid dispensers. The Governor appoints the board members.

The board must meet at least once per year. Board members are compensated for each day on which the member is engaged in board duties and are reimbursed for travel expenses to attend meetings.

The board may not limit a State-licensed physician from treating ears or fitting hearing aids.

Background: The board holds ten meetings a year. On average, about ten board members attend each meeting.

State Fiscal Effect: The board's special fund expenditures could decrease by an estimated \$700 in fiscal 2004 to reflect the two fewer board members, \$500 less for per diem reimbursements to board members, and \$200 less for board members' mileage reimbursements. Special fund revenues would not be affected.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 205 (Delegate Hubbard – Health and Government Operations) is listed as a cross file although it is not identical.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 7, 2003
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