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By: **Senators Conway, Britt, Garagiola, and Klausmeier**  
Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2006  
Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education - Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists - Licensing Fee**  
3 **Reimbursement**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing a program of county aid to certain audiologists and  
5 speech-language pathologists who provide third-party billing services in  
6 schools; requiring the county board to reimburse certain audiologists and  
7 speech-language pathologists a certain amount equal to certain licensing fees  
8 charged by the State Board of Audiologists, Hearing-Aid Dispensers, and  
9 Speech-Language Pathologists; requiring the State Board of Education to adopt  
10 certain regulations; requiring certain audiologists and speech-language  
11 pathologists to reimburse the county board a certain amount under certain  
12 circumstances; and generally relating to the reimbursement of licensing fees for  
13 audiologists and speech-language pathologists providing services in schools.

14 BY adding to  
15 Article - Education  
16 Section 6-112.1  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

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

21 **Article - Education**

22 6-112.1.

23 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "BOARD" MEANS THE STATE BOARD OF AUDIOLOGISTS,  
24 HEARING-AID DISPENSERS, AND SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS.

25 (B) THERE IS A PROGRAM OF COUNTY AID TO AUDIOLOGISTS AND  
26 SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS WHO:

27 (1) PROVIDE AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH-LANGUAGE SERVICES ON A  
28 THIRD-PARTY BILLING BASIS IN SCHOOLS; AND

1           (2)     ARE LICENSED BY THE BOARD.

2     (C)     EACH AUDIOLOGIST AND SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST WHO MEETS  
3 THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION SHALL RECEIVE FROM  
4 THE COUNTY BOARD AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE INITIAL LICENSING FEE OR  
5 RENEWAL OF LICENSE FEE CHARGED BY THE BOARD.

6     (D)     THE STATE BOARD SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT AND  
7 ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION.

8     (E)     AN AUDIOLOGIST OR SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST SHALL  
9 REIMBURSE THE COUNTY BOARD THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE AID RECEIVED IF THE  
10 AUDIOLOGIST OR SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST DOES NOT:

11           (1)     COMPLETE ALL THE REQUIREMENTS FOR RENEWAL OF A LICENSE  
12 BY THE BOARD; OR

13           (2)     PROVIDE AUDIOLOGY OR SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY  
14 SERVICES ON A THIRD-PARTY BILLING BASIS IN A SCHOOL.

15     SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
16 July 1, 2006.