

# HOUSE BILL 258

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By: **The Speaker (By Request – Department of Legislative Services)**

Introduced and read first time: January 20, 2014

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Board of Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, and Speech–Language**  
3 **Pathologists – Sunset Extension and Program Evaluation**

4 FOR the purpose of continuing the State Board of Audiologists, Hearing Aid  
5 Dispensers, and Speech–Language Pathologists in accordance with the  
6 provisions of the Maryland Program Evaluation Act (sunset law) by extending  
7 to a certain date the termination provisions relating to the statutory and  
8 regulatory authority of the Board; requiring that an evaluation of the Board and  
9 the statutes and regulations that relate to the Board be performed on or before  
10 a certain date; requiring the Board to submit a certain report to certain  
11 committees of the General Assembly on or before a certain date; and generally  
12 relating to the State Board of Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, and  
13 Speech–Language Pathologists.

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
15 Article – Health Occupations  
16 Section 2–502  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

19 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
20 Article – State Government  
21 Section 8–403(a)  
22 Annotated Code of Maryland  
23 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

24 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
25 Article – State Government  
26 Section 8–403(b)(6)  
27 Annotated Code of Maryland  
28 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 **Article – Health Occupations**

4 2–502.

5 Subject to the evaluation and reestablishment provisions of the Maryland  
6 Program Evaluation Act, this title and all rules and regulations adopted under this  
7 title shall terminate and be of no effect after July 1, [2016] **2026**.

8 **Article – State Government**

9 8–403.

10 (a) On or before December 15 of the evaluation year specified, the  
11 Department shall:

12 (1) conduct a preliminary evaluation of each governmental activity or  
13 unit to be evaluated under this section; and

14 (2) prepare a report on each preliminary evaluation conducted.

15 (b) Each of the following governmental activities or units and the statutes  
16 and regulations that relate to the governmental activities or units are subject to  
17 preliminary evaluation in the evaluation year specified:

18 (6) Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, and Speech–Language  
19 Pathologists, State Board of Examiners for (§ 2–201 of the Health Occupations Article:  
20 **[2013] 2023**);

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before October 1,  
22 2015, the State Board of Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, and Speech–Language  
23 Pathologists shall submit a report to the Senate Education, Health, and  
24 Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Health and Government Operations  
25 Committee, in accordance with § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, on the  
26 impact of:

27 (1) regulations that would establish a certificate of eligibility for a  
28 license to assist in the practice of speech–language pathology on the availability of  
29 supervised opportunities for speech–language pathology assistants; and

30 (2) shifting the renewal cycle of licenses on the finances and workload  
31 of the Board.

1           SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
2    July 1, 2014.