

Chapter 93

(House Bill 258)

AN ACT concerning

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

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

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

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

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

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

Article – Health Occupations

2–502.

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

Article – State Government

8–403.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Approved by the Governor, April 8, 2014.