

# HOUSE BILL 830

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CF 2lr2905

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By: **Delegate R. Lewis**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2022

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers,**  
3 **Speech–Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists – Physician Members –**  
4 **Repeal**

5 FOR the purpose of altering the membership of the State Board of Audiologists, Hearing  
6 Aid Dispensers, Speech–Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists by removing  
7 the physician members; and generally relating to physician members of the State  
8 Board of Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech–Language Pathologists, and  
9 Music Therapists.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
11 Article – Health Occupations  
12 Section 2–201  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2021 Replacement Volume)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
16 Article – Health Occupations  
17 Section 2–202(a)  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2021 Replacement Volume)

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

22 **Article – Health Occupations**

23 2–201.

24 There is a State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers,  
25 Speech–Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists in the Department.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 2–202.

2 (a) (1) The Board consists of ~~[15]~~ **13** members.

3 (2) Of the ~~[15]~~ **13** Board members:

4 (i) 3 shall be licensed audiologists who have at least 5 years' paid  
5 work experience in audiology and are currently practicing audiology in the State;

6 (ii) 3 shall be licensed speech–language pathologists who have at  
7 least 5 years' paid work experience in speech–language pathology and are currently  
8 practicing speech–language pathology in the State;

9 (iii) ~~[2]~~ shall be physicians who shall be voting members of the Board,  
10 except on proposals that expand or restrict the practice of audiology as defined in § 2–101(q)  
11 of this title or that expand or restrict the practice of speech–language pathology as defined  
12 in § 2–101(r) of this title, and who:

13 1. Are licensed to practice medicine in the State;

14 2. Hold a certificate of qualification from the American Board  
15 of Otolaryngology; and

16 3. Are currently practicing in the State;

17 (iv) ~~2~~ shall be consumer members, 1 of whom shall be a consumer of  
18 services provided by an individual licensed by the Board;

19 ~~[(v)] (IV)~~ 3 shall be licensed hearing aid dispensers who have at  
20 least 5 years' paid work experience in dispensing hearing aids and are currently practicing  
21 hearing aid dispensing in the State; and

22 ~~[(vi)] (V)~~ 2 shall be licensed music therapists who have at least 5  
23 years' paid work experience in music therapy and are currently practicing music therapy  
24 in the State.

25 (3) (i) The Governor shall appoint the physician members, with the  
26 advice of the Secretary, from a list submitted to the Secretary and the Governor by the  
27 Maryland Society of Otolaryngology.

28 (ii) There shall be at least 3 names on the list.

29 (4) (i) The Governor shall appoint the speech–language pathologist  
30 members, with the advice of the Secretary, from a list submitted to the Secretary and the  
31 Governor by the Board.

1 (ii) The number of names on the list shall be at least 3 times the  
2 number of vacancies.

3 (iii) For each licensed speech–language pathologist vacancy, the  
4 Board shall notify all licensed speech–language pathologists in the State of the vacancy to  
5 solicit nominations to fill the vacancy.

6 ~~[(5)]~~ (4) (i) Subject to subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph, the  
7 Governor shall appoint the audiologist members, with the advice of the Secretary, from a  
8 list submitted to the Secretary and the Governor by the Board.

9 (ii) The number of names on the list shall be at least 3 times the  
10 number of vacancies.

11 (iii) For each audiologist vacancy, the Board shall notify all licensed  
12 audiologists in the State of the vacancy to solicit nominations to fill the vacancy.

13 ~~[(6)]~~ (5) (i) The Governor shall appoint the hearing aid dispenser  
14 members, with the advice of the Secretary, from a list submitted to the Secretary and the  
15 Governor by the Maryland members of the Hearing Society of Maryland, Washington, D.C.,  
16 and Delaware.

17 (ii) The number of names on the list shall be at least 3 times the  
18 number of vacancies.

19 ~~[(7)]~~ (6) (i) The Governor shall appoint the consumer members with  
20 the advice of the Secretary and the advice and consent of the Senate.

21 (ii) The Board and the Secretary may solicit applications for  
22 consumer member vacancies from the general public.

23 (iii) 1. The Governor shall appoint the consumer member who is  
24 a consumer of services provided by an individual licensed by the Board from a list submitted  
25 by the Secretary.

26 2. An organization representing patients or family members  
27 of patients served by individuals licensed by the Board may submit recommendations for  
28 the consumer Board member appointed under this subparagraph to the Secretary.

29 3. The Board and the Secretary may notify organizations  
30 representing patients or family members of patients served by individuals licensed by the  
31 Board of a vacancy for the consumer member appointed under this subparagraph.

32 ~~[(8)]~~ (7) (i) The Governor shall appoint the music therapist members,  
33 with the advice of the Secretary, from a list submitted to the Secretary and the Governor  
34 by the Maryland Association for Music Therapy.

1                                   (ii)    The number of names on the list shall be at least 3 times the  
2 number of vacancies.

3                                   (iii) On or before December 31, 2021, the music therapist members  
4 shall be board certified music therapists, as defined in § 2–4A–01 of this title.

5                                   (iv) On or after January 1, 2022, the music therapist members shall  
6 be licensed professional music therapists, as defined in § 2–4A–01 of this title.

7           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the terms of the two physician  
8 members of the State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers,  
9 Speech–Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists in office on the effective date of this  
10 Act shall terminate on June 30, 2022.

11           SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
12 1, 2022.