A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

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

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

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Health Occupations
Section 2–201
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Health Occupations
Section 2–202(a)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume)

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

Article – Health Occupations

2–201.

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

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

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

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

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

1. Are licensed to practice medicine in the State;

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

3. Are currently practicing in the State;

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

(v) (IV) 3 shall be licensed hearing aid dispensers who have at least 5 years’ paid work experience in dispensing hearing aids and are currently practicing hearing aid dispensing in the State; and

(vi) (V) 2 shall be licensed music therapists who have at least 5 years’ paid work experience in music therapy and are currently practicing music therapy in the State.

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

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

(4) (i) The Governor shall appoint the speech–language pathologist members, with the advice of the Secretary, from a list submitted to the Secretary and the Governor by the Board.
(ii) The number of names on the list shall be at least 3 times the number of vacancies.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[(8)] (7) (i) The Governor shall appoint the music therapist members, with the advice of the Secretary, from a list submitted to the Secretary and the Governor by the Maryland Association for Music Therapy.
(ii) The number of names on the list shall be at least 3 times the number of vacancies.

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

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

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

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