

HOUSE BILL 464

J2

4r2129
CF 4r1744

By: **Delegate Martinez**

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2024

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Occupations – Practice Audiology – Definition**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the definition of “practice audiology” for the purposes of certain
4 provisions of law governing the licensure and regulation of audiologists; and
5 generally relating to the practice of audiology.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
7 Article – Health Occupations
8 Section 2–101(a)
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article – Health Occupations
13 Section 2–101(q)
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

16 BY adding to
17 Article – Health Occupations
18 Section 2–101(r–1)
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

23 **Article – Health Occupations**

24 2–101.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

2 (q) (1) “Practice audiology” means to[:

3 (1) Apply the principles, methods, and procedures of measurement,
4 prediction, evaluation, testing, counseling, consultation, and instruction that relate to the
5 development and disorders of hearing, vestibular functions, and related language and
6 speech disorders, to prevent or modify the disorders or assist individuals in hearing and
7 auditory and related skills for communication; and] **USE ANY MEANS KNOWN IN THE**
8 **SCIENCE OF AUDIOLOGY TO:**

9 (I) **EVALUATE, DIAGNOSE, MANAGE, AND TREAT AUDITORY OR**
10 **VESTIBULAR CONDITIONS IN THE HUMAN EAR;**

11 [(2)] (II) Prescribe, order, sell, dispense, or fit hearing aids to an
12 individual for the correction or relief of a condition for which hearing aids are worn;

13 (III) **PRESCRIBE, ORDER, SELL, DISPENSE, OR EXTERNALLY FIT**
14 **A SOUND PROCESSOR TO AN OSSEO-INTEGRATED DEVICE FOR THE CORRECTION OR**
15 **RELIEF OF A CONDITION FOR WHICH OSSEO-INTEGRATED DEVICES ARE WORN; AND**

16 (IV) **PRESCRIBE, ORDER, SELL, DISPENSE, OR EXTERNALLY FIT**
17 **A SOUND PROCESSOR TO A COCHLEAR IMPLANT FOR THE CORRECTION OR RELIEF**
18 **OF A CONDITION FOR WHICH COCHLEAR IMPLANTS ARE WORN.**

19 (2) **“PRACTICE AUDIOLOGY” INCLUDES:**

20 (I) **THE CONDUCTING OF HEALTH SCREENINGS;**

21 (II) **THE REMOVAL OF A FOREIGN BODY FROM THE EXTERNAL**
22 **AUDITORY CANAL;**

23 (III) **THE REMOVAL OF CERUMEN FROM THE EXTERNAL**
24 **AUDITORY CANAL;**

25 (IV) **THE ORDERING OF CULTURES AND BLOODWORK TESTING;**

26 (V) **THE ORDERING AND PERFORMING OF IN-OFFICE,**
27 **NONRADIOGRAPHIC SCANNING OR IMAGING OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITORY CANAL;**
28 **AND**

29 (VI) **THE ORDERING OF RADIOGRAPHIC IMAGING.**

30 (3) **“PRACTICE AUDIOLOGY” DOES NOT INCLUDE:**

1 **(I) SURGERY USING AN INSTRUMENT, INCLUDING A LASER, A**
2 **SCALPEL, A NEEDLE, CAUTERY, A CRYOPROBE, OR A SUTURE, IN WHICH HUMAN**
3 **TISSUE IS CUT, BURNED, VAPORIZED, REMOVED, OR OTHERWISE PERMANENTLY**
4 **ALTERED BY MECHANICAL MEANS, LASER, IONIZING RADIATION, ULTRASOUND, OR**
5 **OTHER MEANS;**

6 **(II) OSSEO-INTEGRATED DEVICE SURGERY;**

7 **(III) COCHLEAR IMPLANT SURGERY; OR**

8 **(IV) THE PREPARATION, OPERATION, OR PERFORMANCE OF**
9 **RADIOGRAPHIC IMAGING.**

10 **(R-1) “SOUND PROCESSOR” MEANS A NONSURGICAL, EXTERNAL UNIT THAT**
11 **ATTACHES TO AN INTERNAL OSSEO-INTEGRATED DEVICE OR COCHLEAR IMPLANT.**

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
13 October 1, 2024.