

Chapter 739

(House Bill 406)

AN ACT concerning

**State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech–Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists – Appointment of Hearing Aid Dispenser Members and Quorum**

FOR the purpose of altering the appointment process for licensed ~~audiologist, hearing aid dispenser, and music therapist~~ members of the State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech–Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists; ~~altering the requirements for a quorum of the Board;~~ and generally relating to the State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech–Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
Article – Health Occupations  
Section 2–202(a)(1) and ~~(2)(i), (v), and (vi)~~ (2)(v)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Health Occupations  
Section ~~2–202(a)(5), (6), and (8) and 2–204(a)~~ 2–202(a)(6)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

**Article – Health Occupations**

2–202.

(a) (1) The Board consists of 15 members.

(2) Of the 15 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;~~

(v) 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) 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.~~

~~(5) (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 [Maryland Academy of Audiology] 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) (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] BOARD.

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

**(III) FOR EACH HEARING AID DISPENSER VACANCY, THE BOARD SHALL NOTIFY ALL LICENSED HEARING AID DISPENSERS IN THE STATE OF THE VACANCY TO SOLICIT NOMINATIONS TO FILL THE VACANCY.**

~~(8) (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] BOARD.~~

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

~~**(III) FOR EACH MUSIC THERAPIST VACANCY, THE BOARD SHALL NOTIFY ALL LICENSED MUSIC THERAPISTS IN THE STATE OF THE VACANCY TO SOLICIT NOMINATIONS TO FILL THE VACANCY.**~~

~~[(iii)] (IV) 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)] (V) 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.~~

~~(a) A majority of the APPOINTED members [currently serving on] OF the Board, with at least 1 audiologist, hearing aid dispenser, speech language pathologist, and music therapist regulated under the provisions of this title being present,] is a quorum to do business.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

**Approved by the Governor, May 20, 2025.**