

HOUSE BILL 1298

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5lr3102
CF SB 919

By: **Delegate Martinez**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2025

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

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

3 FOR the purpose of altering the definition of “practice audiology”, including by clarifying
4 that the ordering and performing of certain scanning and imaging are included as
5 these procedures relate to auditory or vestibular conditions in the human ear; and
6 generally relating to the practice of audiology.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
8 Article – Health Occupations
9 Section 2–101(a) and (b)
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article – Health Occupations
14 Section 2–101(q)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – Health Occupations**

20 2–101.

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

22 (b) “Audiologist” means an individual who practices audiology.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (q) (1) "Practice audiology" means to **USE ANY MEANS KNOWN IN THE**
2 **SCIENCE OF AUDIOLOGY TO:**

3 (i) Evaluate, diagnose, manage, and treat auditory or vestibular
4 conditions in the human ear;

5 (ii) Prescribe, order, sell, dispense, or fit hearing aids to an
6 individual for the correction or relief of a condition for which hearing aids are worn;

7 (iii) Prescribe, order, sell, dispense, or externally fit a sound
8 processor to an osseo-integrated device for the correction or relief of a condition for which
9 osseo-integrated devices are worn; and

10 (iv) Prescribe, order, sell, dispense, or externally fit a sound
11 processor to a cochlear implant for the correction or relief of a condition for which cochlear
12 implants are worn.

13 (2) "Practice audiology" includes:

14 (i) The conducting of health screenings **RELATED TO AUDITORY**
15 **OR VESTIBULAR CONDITIONS OR REQUIRED BY FEDERAL, STATE, OR THIRD-PARTY**
16 **PAYERS;**

17 (ii) The removal of a foreign body from the external auditory canal
18 that is not impacted to the point it requires anesthesia;

19 (iii) The removal of cerumen from the external auditory canal that is
20 not impacted to the point it requires anesthesia;

21 (iv) The ordering of cultures and bloodwork testing as it relates to
22 the auditory or vestibular conditions in the human ear;

23 (v) The ordering and performing of in-office, nonradiographic
24 scanning or imaging of the external auditory canal **AS IT RELATES TO THE AUDITORY OR**
25 **VESTIBULAR CONDITIONS IN THE HUMAN EAR;** and

26 (vi) The ordering of radiographic imaging as it relates to the auditory
27 or vestibular conditions in the human ear.

28 (3) "Practice audiology" does not include:

29 (i) Surgery using an instrument, including a laser, a scalpel, a
30 needle, cautery, a cryoprobe, or a suture, in which human tissue is cut, burned, vaporized,
31 removed, or otherwise permanently altered by mechanical means, laser, ionizing radiation,
32 ultrasound, or other means;

- 1 (ii) Osseo-integrated device surgery;
- 2 (iii) Cochlear implant surgery; or
- 3 (iv) The preparation, operation, or performance of radiographic
- 4 imaging.

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
6 1, 2025.