

SENATE BILL 917

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By: **Senator Mautz**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

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 2025 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 2025 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.

23 (q) (1) “Practice audiology” means to:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

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

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

(2) "Practice audiology" includes:

(i) The conducting of health screenings **RELATED TO AUDITORY OR VESTIBULAR CONDITIONS IN THE HUMAN EAR**;

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

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

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

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

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

(3) "Practice audiology" does not include:

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

(ii) Osseointegrated device surgery;

(iii) Cochlear implant surgery; or

1 (iv) The preparation, operation, or performance of radiographic
2 imaging.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
4 October 1, 2026.