

# SENATE BILL 917

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By: **Senator Mautz**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

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Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 26, 2026

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

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.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14 (2) “Practice audiology” includes:

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

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,

1 removed, or otherwise permanently altered by mechanical means, laser, ionizing radiation,  
2 ultrasound, or other means;

3 (ii) Osseo-integrated device surgery;

4 (iii) Cochlear implant surgery; or

5 (iv) The preparation, operation, or performance of radiographic  
6 imaging.

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

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.