

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 917
Finance

(Senator Mautz)

Health

Health Occupations - Practice of Audiology - Definition

This bill clarifies the definition of “practice audiology” to include the conducting of health screenings and the ordering and performing of in-office, nonradiographic scanning or imaging of the external auditory canal *related to the auditory or vestibular conditions in the human ear*.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists can update regulations as necessary with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: An individual must be licensed by the State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists to practice audiology in Maryland.

“Practice audiology” includes (1) the conducting of health screenings; (2) the removal of a foreign body and cerumen from the external auditory canal that is not impacted to the point that it requires anesthesia; (3) the ordering of cultures and bloodwork testing as it relates to the auditory or vestibular conditions in the human ear; (4) the ordering and performing of in-office, nonradiographic scanning or imaging of the external auditory canal; and

(5) the ordering of radiographic imaging as it relates to the auditory or vestibular conditions in the human ear. It does not include (1) surgery using an instrument, including a laser, scalpel, needle, cautery, cryoprobe, or suture, in which human tissue is cut, burned, vaporized, removed, or otherwise permanently altered by mechanical means, laser, ionizing radiation, ultrasound, or other means; (2) osseo-integrated device surgery; (3) cochlear implant surgery; or (4) the preparation, operation, or performance of radiographic imaging.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 24, 2026
jg/jc Third Reader - March 17, 2026

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