

Lam_SB0523_FAV.pdf

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CLARENCE K. LAM, M.D., M.P.H.
Legislative District 12
Baltimore and Howard Counties

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Committee

Executive Nominations Committee

Joint Committee on Ending Homelessness

Chair

Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee

Joint Committee on Fair Practices and
State Personnel Oversight

Vice Chair

Baltimore County Senate Delegation

Chair

Howard County Senate Delegation



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Support SB 523

State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, and Speech–Language Pathologists–Duties, Appointment of Members, and Requirements for Licensees

SB 523 Purpose and Function:

- Updates and modernizes statute governing the State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, and Speech–Language Pathologists
- Defines audiologists, hearing aid dispensers and speech-language pathologists as health care professionals
- Requires notice to all licensed speech-language pathologists of Board vacancies
- Allows for the solicitation of applications for consumer member Board vacancies
- Clarifies license notice requirement

MAA Support Letter for SB523 20210208.pdf

Uploaded by: Spoor , Dr. Alicia

Position: FAV



Maryland Academy of Audiology

P.O. Box 710

Parkville, MD 21234

<http://maaudiology.org/>

February 16, 2021

Chair Paul Pinsky
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West Wing
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB0523 State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, and Speech-Language Pathologists – Duties, Appointment of Members, and Requirements for Licenses

Position: **SUPPORT**

Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and Committee Members,

The Maryland Academy of Audiology (MAA) represents the 450+ licensed audiologists who practice in the state of Maryland, and the patients they serve. The MAA's goal is to enhance the ability of members to achieve career and practice objectives by fostering professional autonomy, providing quality continuing education, and increasing public and consumer awareness of hearing and balance disorders and the value of audiologic services. By virtue of education and licensure, Audiologists are the most qualified professionals to manage hearing and balance disorders. An Audiologist is a state-licensed professional who specializes in evaluating, diagnosing, treating, and managing patients with hearing loss, tinnitus, and balance (vestibular) disorders. Audiologists work in a variety of settings: private practice offices, hospitals, medical centers, out-patient clinics, public and private schools, universities (teaching and research), regulatory agencies, large-scale research centers, rehabilitation centers, skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, the Veterans Administration, and the U.S. Military. Audiologists work closely with federal, state, and private third-party payers to optimize coverage of services provided for the evaluation and treatment of the patients in their care.

The MAA supports the Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispenser, and Speech-Language Pathologists and their legislation, SB0523 and **requests your favorable report.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sofia Roller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sofia Roller, Au.D.
President, Maryland Academy of Audiology

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Uploaded by: Bennardi, Maryland Department of Health /Office of Governmen

Position: FWA



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Acting Secretary

Maryland Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers & Speech-Language Pathologists
4201 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215
Phone: 410-764-4723

February 16, 2021

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 523 – State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers and Speech-Language Pathologists – Duties, Appointment of Members, and Requirement for Licensees – Letter of Support with Amendments

Dear Chair Pinsky:

The State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, and Speech-Language Pathologists (the “Board”) is submitting this letter of support with amendments for SB 523 - State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers and Speech-Language Pathologists – Duties, Appointment of Members, and Requirement for Licensees. This bill’s purpose serves to amend Health Occupations Article 1-801 to include the State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, and Speech-Language Pathologists as one of the included health occupations. It also serves to provide transparency and consistency amongst licensees to practice under said profession under the same name as indicated on their license; to provide a license number on any written documentation; to change the onus of soliciting for Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Board member appointments from local professional organizations to the Board itself; to change the onus of soliciting for the consumer of Board occupations services seat for a Board appointment from The Department of Disabilities, to any organization representing patients or family members of patients served by individuals licensed by the Board; to allow the Board and the Secretary to solicit for the consumer Board member appointment from the general public; to clarify statute language regarding requirements for licensure and the discretion of the Board to waive any of the qualifications required for a license to practice Audiology, Hearing Aid Dispensing, Speech-Language Pathology, or assisting in Speech-Language Pathology; and other clarifying changes.

Since the time of bill submission, the Board has learned of the potential magnitude of the fiscal impact of conducting a balloting process. The Board does not wish to incur these costs and would prefer to make the recommendation for Board seat appointments based upon the diversity of the applicants to include but not limited to: geography, race, ethnicity and sub-specialty within the profession.

The Board supports SB 523 with the following Board-approved amendments:

Page 1, line 13, after the word “certain,” strike “BALLOTING” and on page 1, line 16 after the word “certain,” strike “BALLOTING.”

Page 1, lines 26-29, after the word “documentation;”, strike the lines beginning with the word “repealing” through “website;”.

Under § 2-202, page 5, lines 7-11 should read: (III) FOR EACH LICENSED SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST VACANCY, THE BOARD SHALL NOTIFY ALL LICENSED SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS IN THE STATE OF THE VACANCY TO SOLICIT NOMINATIONS TO FILL THE VACANCY.

Under § 2-202, page 5, delete lines 12-15.

Under § 2-202, page 5, lines 22-25 should read: [(ii)] (III) For each audiologist vacancy, the [Maryland Academy of 23 Audiology and the Maryland Speech–Language and Hearing Association] BOARD shall[:]

[(1) Notify] NOTIFY all licensed audiologists in the State of the vacancy to solicit nominations to fill the vacancy[: and].

Under § 2-202, page 5, delete lines 26-28.

Under § 2-311(a), page 8, lines 29-30, strike the brackets.

Page 9, line 1, renumber (A)(1) to be (B)(1), delete (2), and renumber (3) to be (2).

Page 9, line 6 renumber (b) to be (C), line 8 renumber (c) to be (D).

The Board respectfully requests a favorable report on SB 523 with the requested amendments.

Thank you for your consideration of the Board’s position. If you have any additional questions, please contact the Board’s Executive Director, Dr. Candace G. Robinson, Au.D., at Candace.Robinson@maryland.gov or 443-915-7981.

Sincerely,



Candace G. Robinson, Au.D.
Board Executive Director