



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

**Board of Examiners For Audiologists, Hearing
Aid Dispensers & Speech-Language
Pathologists**
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2021 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO: SB 952 -
COMMITTEE: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs
POSITION: Oppose

**TITLE: Health Occupations – Internship and Residency Training Requirements – Waiver
for Former Service Members Injured in Combat**

BILL ANALYSIS: This bill requires health occupation boards to waive any internship, residency training requirements for licensure, certification, or registration for a former service member who is disabled due to injury from combat deployment.

POSITION AND RATIONALE: After a thorough review of SB 952, the Board of Examiners Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers and Speech-Language Pathologists (the “Board”) has respectfully taken a position of opposition. SB 952, as written, may require the Board to waive the supervised clinical training for licensure of Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers and Speech-Language Pathologists who are disabled combat veterans. Supervised clinical training is an essential component for licensure. Licensees complete a clinical fellowship, which includes both direct and indirect client contact supervision under a licensed Audiologist, Hearing Aid Dispenser or Speech-Language Pathologist. During training, licensees are allowed the opportunity to service clients, while gaining much needed guidance by an experienced licensee in the clinical field and, therefore, these requirements cannot be waived. Additionally, the Board is concerned that waiving the required training would be a major disadvantage for disabled combat veterans and could also jeopardize the safety of Maryland consumers.

The Board is in full support of offering additional assistance through the licensure process for service members injured in combat and their spouses, but respectfully opposes SB 952 as written.

For more information, please contact Oluremi Dean, MHA, Acting Executive Director, 410-764-4724 or at oluremi.dean@maryland.gov.

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.