

HB161/SB379: Licensure of Audiology Assistants

Sponsors: Delegate Ariana Kelly; Senator Clarence Lam

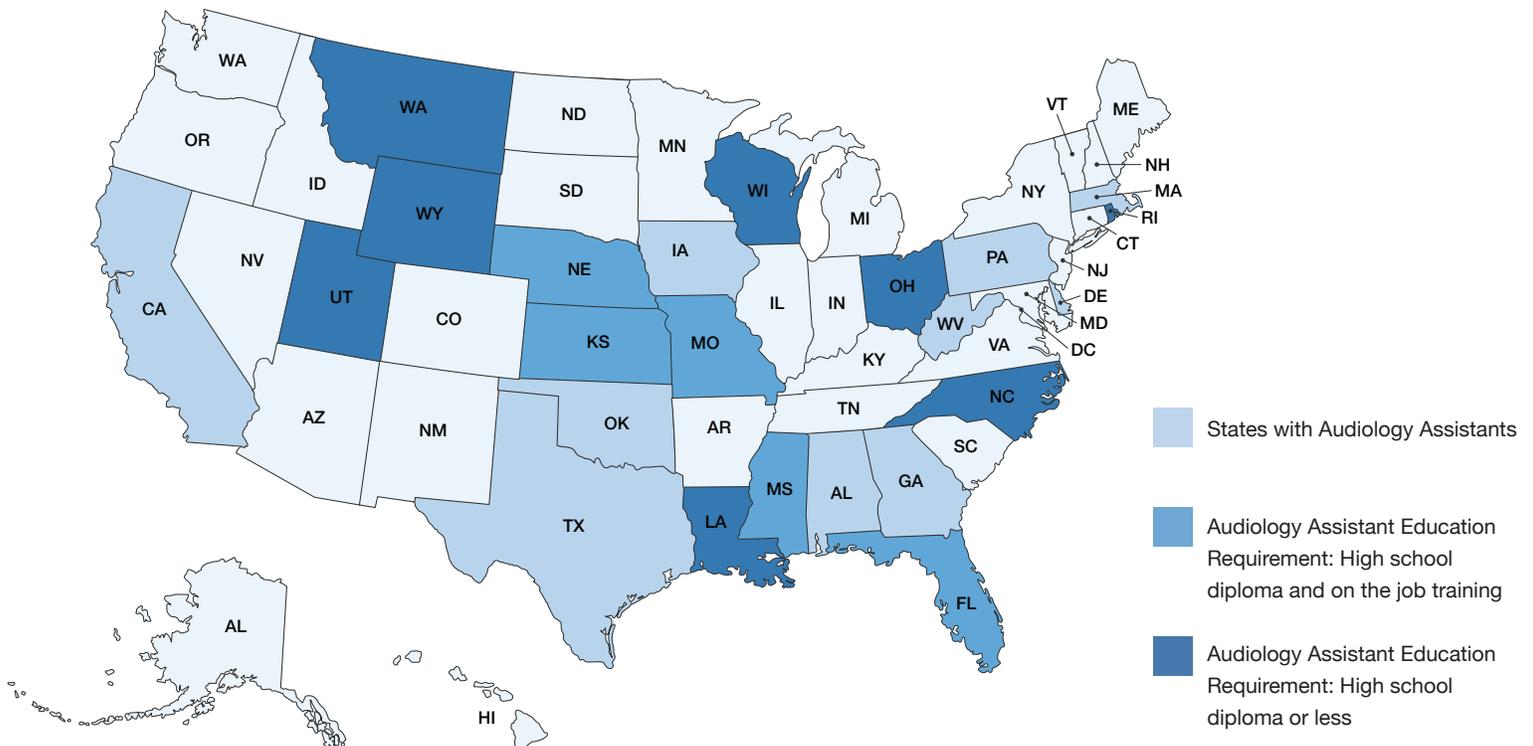
HB161/SB379 legislation, when enacted, will introduce Audiology Assistants to the healthcare system. Following the precedence set in the state of Maryland, the legislation was drafted using medical, dental, and podiatric assistants as an example of their ability to “extend” care. Audiology Assistants will help provide access to care in rural areas and in busy clinics, which have significantly higher demand with the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing and greater disinfecting demands.



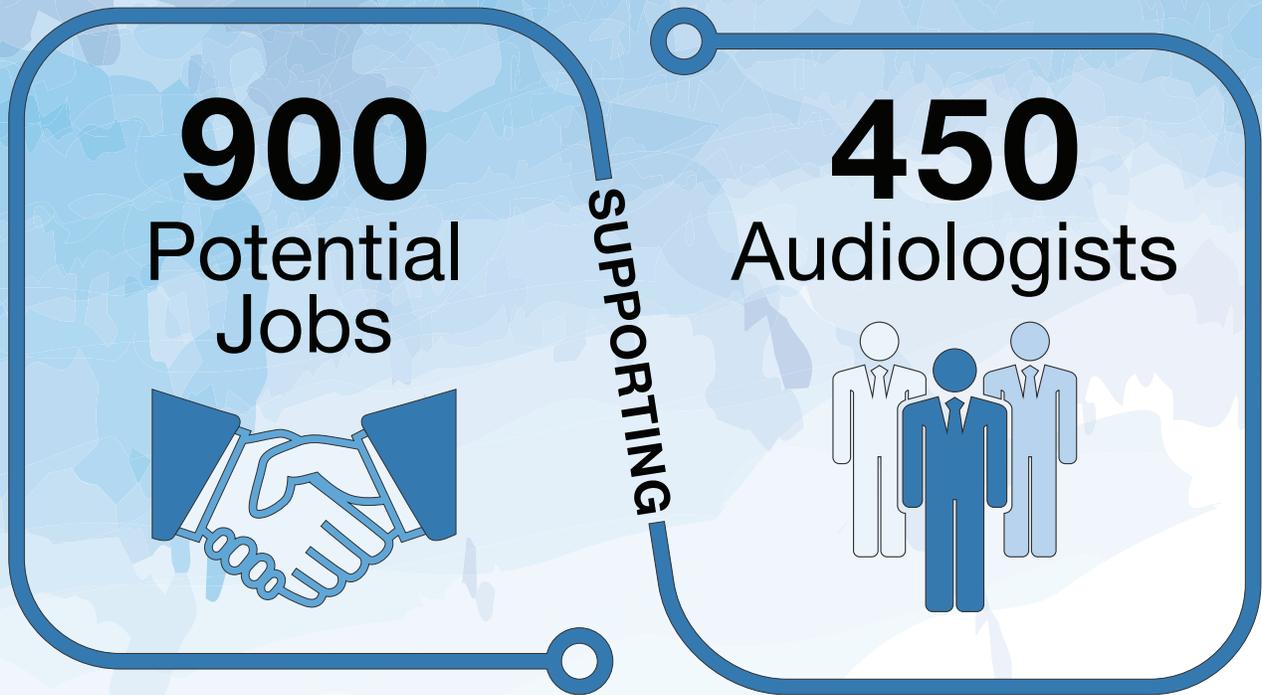
Duties of an Audiology Assistant include:

- Routine cleaning of hearing devices
- General instruction of device use
- Prepping exam rooms, equipment, patients
- Completing screening (pass/fail) protocols
- Other tasks delegated by the audiologist

To date, 22 other states have enacted Audiology Assistants. Many states require a high school diploma and some on-the-job training for this position.

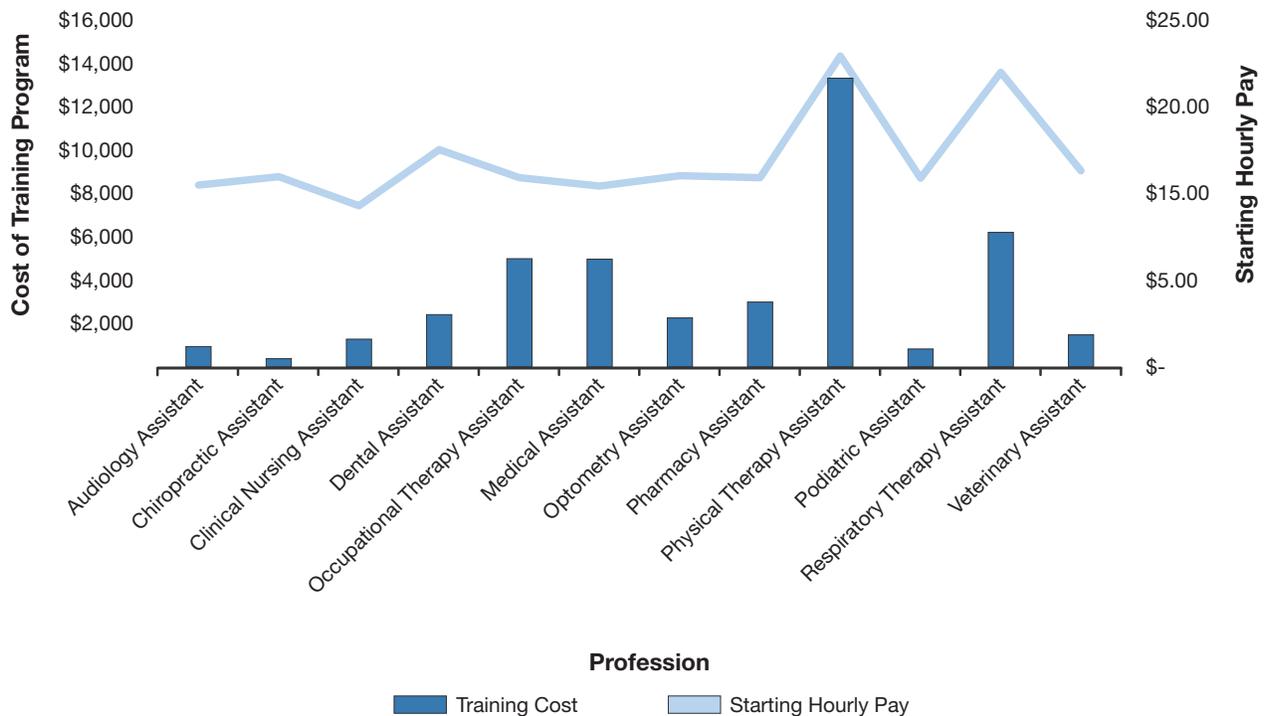


Economic Development



Audiology Assistants are **equally paid** with minimal education and have at least the same, if not **better return** on training cost compared to other medical/healthcare assistants.

Cost of Training versus Hourly Pay by Profession for Assistants



Thank you for your favorable support.