



Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists & Music Therapists

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Acting Secretary

*Arifa Qureshi, Chair – Oluremi Dean, Executive Director
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2023 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO: HB 401
COMMITTEE: HGO
POSITION: SWA

TITLE: Health Occupations – Practice Audiology - Definition

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill (HB) 401 will expand the definition of “practice audiology” and clarify the law generally related to the practice of audiology and governing the licensure of Audiologist.

POSITION AND RATIONALE: The Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists (the Board) support with amendments HB 401 – Health Occupations – Practice Audiology – Definition.

The Board is in support of expanding the definition of “practice audiology.” HB 401 would clarify the scope of practice of an Audiologist. The bill would also specify the type of devices an Audiologist may prescribe, order, sell, dispense, or fit. HB 401 adds the use of osseointegrated devices under the definition of “practice audiology” and defines an osseointegrated device as a bone-anchored hearing device (BAHA) or cochlear implants (CI). However, a BAHA surgery involves the attachment of an osseointegrated titanium implant to the skull. A cochlear implant is not the same as an osseointegrated device. A cochlear implant is surgically implanted under the skin and an electrode array is placed inside the cochlea. Because of this difference, the Board recommends the following amendments:

Amendment 1

On page 2, line 8, insert “(D) “COCHLEAR IMPLANT” MEANS A SURGICALLY IMPLANTED HEARING DEVICE UNDER THE SKIN WITH AN ELECTRODE ARRAY PLACED INSIDE THE COCHLEA.”; Renumber (d)—(p) to be (E)—(Q), respectively.

Amendment 2

On page 2, line 8, strike (Q) and substitute (R); strike OSSEO-INTEGRATED and substitute OSSEOINTEGRATED; line 9, after “HEARING”, insert “AID (BAHA), WHICH INVOLVES THE ATTACHMENT OF AN OSSEOINTEGRATED TITANIUM IMPLANT TO THE SKULL.”; strike “DEVICE OR COCHLEAR IMPLANTS.”; Renumber (q)—(u) to be (S)—(W), respectively.

Amendment 3

One page 2, line 19, after “hearing aids” insert “**COCHLEAR IMPLANTS,**”; strike **OSSEO-INTEGRATED** and substitute **OSSEOINTEGRATED**; line 21, strike **OSSEO-INTEGRATED** and substitute **OSSEOINTEGRATED**.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony. The Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists respectfully request a favorable report on HB 401 with proposed amendments.

For more information, please contact Executive Director, Oluremi Dean at 410-764-4723 or at Oluremi.Dean@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Oluremi Dean".

Oluremi Dean, MHA
Executive Director
Board of Examiners for Audiologists,
Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language
Pathologists, & Music Therapists

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