



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., Secretary

*Arifa Qureshi, Chair – Oluremi Dean, Executive Director
4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore MD 21215 Phone: 410-764-4725*

February 16, 2023

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB 196 – Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses – Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting – Letter of Information

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists (the Board) is submitting this letter of information for HB 196 – Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses – Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting.

The Board is in support of ensuring members of the armed forces and their spouses are given an expedited process to obtain licensure. Our Board currently has an expedited licensure process in place which simply requires the service member or their spouse to provide a copy of their DD214 when applying for licensure. Over the past two years, the Board has received less than 5 applications from service members. Therefore, the volume of applications that will be eligible for this expedited process is projected to be minimal. The normal processing time for completed applications for the Board is up to 5 business days. A completed application includes the Board receiving a background check report and all licensure verifications. Completed applications from service members are given priority and processed as soon as possible. With the current processing time of the Board being up to 5 business days, the issuance of a temporary license will not be necessary to obtain. Service members currently can obtain full licensure within the allotted 15 days proposed in HB 196.

To obtain licensure with the Board, licensees must complete the required education and training requirements set forth in the Board's statute and regulations. Currently, the Board does not assist licensees with identifying programs that offer relevant education or training. The Board does not have an ongoing relationship with educational institutions and therefore would not be able to ensure that the suggested programs will satisfy the licensees education or training requirements. The Board does understand that some boards have ongoing partnerships with clinical training programs and educational institutions, however our Board does not at this time. The Board is providing this letter of information to ensure all committee members are aware of the differences between each board and to take into consideration that not all boards may be able assist service members with education and training recommendations. However, the Board does support the

mandatory implementation of an expedited licensure process for service members, veterans and military spouses.

I hope this information is useful. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Executive Director, Oluremi Dean @ Oluremi.Dean@maryland.gov or 410-764-4723.

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 letter of information does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.