



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

Board of Examiners for Audiologists,
Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language
Pathologists & Music Therapists
4201 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

**2024 SESSION
POSITION PAPER**

BILL NO: HB 464
COMMITTEE: Health and Government Operations
POSITION: Support

TITLE: Health Occupations – Practice Audiology – Definition

BILL ANALYSIS: HB 464 proposes to alter the definition of “practice audiology” for the purposes of certain provisions of law governing the licensure and regulation of Audiologists.

POSITION AND RATIONALE: The Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists and Music Therapists (the “Board”) is in full support of HB 464.

The Board supports HB 464 for several reasons. The key reason being is that audiologists are the primary providers for their patients and are the best healthcare professionals for the diagnosis, evaluation, management, and treatment of hearing and vestibular conditions. Audiologists are the most knowledgeable in caring for their patients with hearing and vestibular conditions. Therefore, audiologists should have total autonomy in how best to serve their patients. No other medical or healthcare professional has the knowledge that audiologists possess, to treat the above referenced conditions.

The State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists and Music Therapists, respectfully requests a favorable report on HB 464.

Thank you for your consideration. If you should require anything further, please contact Keena Stephenson, Executive Director, at keena.stephenson1@maryland.gov, or 443.832.0597.

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