



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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, MD 21215

2025 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO: SB 641
COMMITTEE: Finance
POSITION: Support with Amendment

TITLE: Health Insurance – Required Coverage – Hearing Aids

BILL ANALYSIS: SB 641 proposes to alter the circumstances under which insurance coverage is provided for adults and minors needing hearing aids.

POSITION AND RATIONALE: The State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists and Music Therapists, is in support of SB 641, with the following amendments to put the SB in the same posture as HB 1355:

Amendment 1:

Page 2, Line 7, strike “**OR A LICENSED HEARING AID DISPENSER**”

Amendment 2:

Page 3, Lines 1–2, add “: **(1)**” after the word “are”; after “audiologist add “:”; after “**OR**” add “**(2) ORDERED, FITTED, AND DISPENSED BY**”

While the Board appreciates the efforts to obtain coverage for adults and minors for hearing aids that are prescribed, fitted, or dispensed by a licensed Audiologist, the Board does not support the prescribing, fitting, or dispensing of hearing aids to minors by a licensed Hearing Aid Dispenser. The Board has determined that Hearing Aid Dispensers lack the educational and clinical training required to provide the full scale of services to minors. Additionally, the Board supports coverage provisions for **adult** hearing aids that are ordered, fitted, or dispensed by a licensed Hearing Aid Dispenser.

It is for this reason that the Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists and Music Therapists, request a favorable report on SB 641 with amendments.

Should you require further information, please contact Keena Stephenson, Executive Director, at keena.stephenson1@maryland.gov, or 443.832.0597, or Lillian Reese, Legislative Liaison, at Lillian.reese@maryland.gov, or 443-794-4757.

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