



March 10, 2025

The Honorable Joseline Pena-Melnyk, Chair
House Health & Government Operations Committee
241 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: HB 1298 – Audiology Practice – Definitions – FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison and Members of the HGO Committee:

On behalf of the Maryland Academy of Audiology, we support HB 1298 as drafted.

You had the courage last year to work hard to pass landmark legislation that increased access and affordability for Marylanders to receive timely audiology services. We want to thank Delegate Martinez for his incredible tenacity and leadership in shepherding this bill through and to final passage and into law.

You will hear *since* the passage of your bill how it has literally saved lives by allowing Audiologists to order (not perform) radiographic imaging when a tumor is suspected.

At the request of MedChi and others, the Governor allowed the bill to go into effect but asked that we come back and try and refine the definition of allowing Audiologists to conduct ‘health screenings’.

We worked with MedChi and the ENTs and came up with an almost 100% agreement on compromise language. We agreed to clarify that health screenings are “related to auditory or vestibular conditions.” We also added “or required by federal state or ***third-party payors***”.

It seems that the only real concern with the bill is whether the phrase should be ‘federal or state agencies’ or whether it should be “federal, state or third-party payor”.

We are respectfully insisting that ‘third-party payors’ as drafted in the bill be retained for the reasons you will hear. Federal programs such as Medicare and State programs such

as Medicaid do not include private third-party payors. For example, people who use Medicare Advantage – that is a private third-party payor - not a federal or state agency or program. We must ensure that any ‘health screening’ requirements under Medicare Advantage or any other similar program will not jeopardize any potential reimbursements we may receive under any other health insurance program.

There is some concern that the use of ‘third-party payor’ is not used in the Health Occupations Article, and in Health Article generally. We have referenced in the attached 4 pages, multiple references to ‘third-party payor’ in those Articles as well as the Insurance Article and others. (See attached statutory references below).

These include, the scope section of Dentistry H.O. 4-103 (Ownership of Practice) as well as the Physician Statute, H.O. 14-404 (Denials, Reprimands, Probations, Suspensions & Revocations). If the Physicians’ statute that concerns these serious professional punishments can reference ‘third party payor’ in that statute, then the Audiologists should be able to reference ‘third party payor’ merely for ensuring that we get properly reimbursed from private insurance plans such as Medicare Advantage plans.

In sum, we can accept the bill as originally introduced or offer others amendments suggested by the MedChi Executive Director, which protect the Audiologists who are performing health screenings and those required by those private plans who are outside of the definition of a federal or state agency.

We thank Delegate Martinez and the HGO Committee for ensuring that the best practices for health care screenings by Audiologists are available and affordable for your constituents.

Respectfully submitted,
Gil Genn

“THIRD PARTY PAYOR” – USE IN HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE

H.O. 1-208 Uniform Claim Forms

<https://advance.lexis.com/documentpage/?pdmfid=1000516&crd=cb2939e0-4245-4393-9048-684e88c8d2b0&config=014EJAA2ZmE1OTU3OC0xMGRjLTRINTctOTQ3Zi0wMDE2MWFhYzAwN2MKAfBvZENhdGFsb2e9wg3LFiffInanDd3V39aA&pddocfullpath=%2Fshared%2Fdocument%2Fstatutes-legislation%2Furn%3AcontentItem%3A63SM-VX91-DYB7-W23H-00008-00&pdcontentcomponentid=234188&pdteaserkey=sr5&pditab=allpods&ecom=6s65kkk&earg=sr5&prid=0dc982aa-9555-41fe-a69b-89b34f271a92>

H.O. 1-302 – Prohibited Referrals

<https://advance.lexis.com/documentpage/?pdmfid=1000516&crd=1da39971-ea12-4702-a374-389614134f7b&config=014EJAA2ZmE1OTU3OC0xMGRjLTRINTctOTQ3Zi0wMDE2MWFhYzAwN2MKAFBvZENhdGFsb2e9wg3LFiffInanDd3V39aA&pddocfullpath=%2Fshared%2Fdocument%2Fstatutes-legislation%2Furn%3AcontentItem%3A661B-70Y3-CGX8-01FK-00008-00&pdcontentcomponentid=234188&pdteaserkey=sr14&pditab=allpods&ecomp=6s65kkk&earg=sr14&prid=07438077-9a6c-406e-b85c-be9800429b4a>

H.O 1-304 – Disclosure to Third Party Payors

<https://advance.lexis.com/documentpage/?pdmfid=1000516&crd=2d78ccf2-b961-4258-ad2c-f71240186d55&config=014EJAA2ZmE1OTU3OC0xMGRjLTRINTctOTQ3Zi0wMDE2MWFhYzAwN2MKAFBvZENhdGFsb2e9wg3LFiffInanDd3V39aA&pddocfullpath=%2Fshared%2Fdocument%2Fstatutes-legislation%2Furn%3AcontentItem%3A63SM-VX91-DYB7-W24F-00008-00&pdcontentcomponentid=234188&pdteaserkey=sr0&pditab=allpods&ecomp=6s65kkk&earg=sr0&prid=62a842cb-7a02-45a1-a848-091e6ddd6300>

H.O. 1-306 – Direct Billing of Anatomic Pathology Services

<https://advance.lexis.com/documentpage/?pdmfid=1000516&crd=3214a885-a24a-4f6c-b699-1c618e6941bf&config=014EJAA2ZmE1OTU3OC0xMGRjLTRINTctOTQ3Zi0wMDE2MWFhYzAwN2MKAFBvZENhdGFsb2e9wg3LFiffInanDd3V39aA&pddocfullpath=%2Fshared%2Fdocument%2Fstatutes-legislation%2Furn%3AcontentItem%3A63SM-VX91-DYB7-W24H-00008-00&pdcontentcomponentid=234188&pdteaserkey=sr12&pditab=allpods&ecomp=6s65kkk&earg=sr12&prid=07438077-9a6c-406e-b85c-be9800429b4a>

H.O. 4-103 Dental Practice to Be Owned by Dental Practice

<https://advance.lexis.com/documentpage/?pdmfid=1000516&crd=4c224684-73cf-4bba-8639-2dd57c5560dc&config=014EJAA2ZmE1OTU3OC0xMGRjLTRINTctOTQ3Zi0wMDE2MWFhYzAwN2MKAFBvZENhdGFsb2e9wg3LFiffInanDd3V39aA&pddocfullpath=%2Fshared%2Fdocument%2Fstatutes-legislation%2Furn%3AcontentItem%3A63SM-VX91-DYB7-W2F7-00008-00&pdcontentcomponentid=234188&pdteaserkey=sr14&pditab=allpods&ecomp=6s65kkk&earg=sr14&prid=85e9e273-0eb4-4300-81d5-b4a354ed53e1>

H.O. 14-404 Denials, Probations, Reprimands, Suspensions, Revocations

<https://advance.lexis.com/documentpage/?pdmfid=1000516&crd=a7181ef7-fe0a-4d55-b5fb-1652dc7a7701&config=014EJAA2ZmE1OTU3OC0xMGRjLTRINTctOTQ3Zi0wMDE2MWFhYzAwN2MKAFBvZENhdGFsb2e9wg3LFiffInanDd3V39aA&pddocfullpath=%2Fshared%2Fdocument%2Fstatutes-legislation%2Furn%3AcontentItem%3A63SM-VX91-DYB7-W3GB-00008-00&pdcontentcomponentid=234188&pdteaserkey=sr21&pditab=allpods&ecomp=6s65kkk&earg=sr21&prid=82ea3a71-08aa-40c6-bbbc-1448bcca61be>

“THIRD PARTY PAYOR” – USE IN HEALTH GENERAL ARTICLE

Health General 19-4A-10 Reimbursement By Third Party Payor

<https://advance.lexis.com/documentpage/?pdmfid=1000516&crd=ae93a85a-3a68-4d58-b392-c482dc943309&config=014EJAA2ZmE1OTU3OC0xMGRjLTRINTctOTQ3Zi0wMDE2MWFhYzAwN2MKAFBvZENhdGFsb2e9wg3LFiffInanDd3V39aA&pddocfullpath=%2Fshared%2Fdocument%2Fstatutes-legislation%2Furn%3AcontentItem%3A63SM-VX11-DYB7-W1YS-00008-00>

[00&pdcontentcomponentid=234188&pdteaserkey=sr1&pdtab=allpods&ecomp=6s65kkk&earg=sr1&prid=86e8fc80-c3ef-48b6-a03f-cc06642c140e](https://advance.lexis.com/documentpage/?pdmfid=1000516&crd=b9e498ff-daa7-46aa-95e8-7aababa8f474&config=014EJAA2ZmE1OTU3OC0xMGRjLTRINTctOTQ3Zi0wMDE2MWFhYzAwN2MKAFBvZENhdGFsb2e9wg3LFiffInanDd3V39aA&pddocfullpath=%2Fshared%2Fdocument%2Fstatutes-legislation%2Furn%3AcontentItem%3A63SM-VX11-DYB7-W1VT-00008-00&pdcontentcomponentid=234188&pdteaserkey=sr1&pdtab=allpods&ecomp=6s65kkk&earg=sr1&prid=86e8fc80-c3ef-48b6-a03f-cc06642c140e)

Health General 19-350.1 – Uniform Claims Forms

<https://advance.lexis.com/documentpage/?pdmfid=1000516&crd=b9e498ff-daa7-46aa-95e8-7aababa8f474&config=014EJAA2ZmE1OTU3OC0xMGRjLTRINTctOTQ3Zi0wMDE2MWFhYzAwN2MKAFBvZENhdGFsb2e9wg3LFiffInanDd3V39aA&pddocfullpath=%2Fshared%2Fdocument%2Fstatutes-legislation%2Furn%3AcontentItem%3A63SM-VX11-DYB7-W1VT-00008-00&pdcontentcomponentid=234188&pdteaserkey=sr4&pdtab=allpods&ecomp=6s65kkk&earg=sr4&prid=995ebc65-fff8-4ba8-919d-1502a82bc271>

Health General 19-319 - Qualification of Licenses

<https://advance.lexis.com/documentpage/?pdmfid=1000516&crd=380ec474-c723-4fb6-aa63-4675178f6c80&config=014EJAA2ZmE1OTU3OC0xMGRjLTRINTctOTQ3Zi0wMDE2MWFhYzAwN2MKAFBvZENhdGFsb2e9wg3LFiffInanDd3V39aA&pddocfullpath=%2Fshared%2Fdocument%2Fstatutes-legislation%2Furn%3AcontentItem%3A6893-0Y63-CGX8-01M3-00008-00&pdcontentcomponentid=234188&pdteaserkey=sr7&pdtab=allpods&ecomp=6s65kkk&earg=sr7&prid=995ebc65-fff8-4ba8-919d-1502a82bc271>

Health General 4-305 - Disclosures Without Authorization of Persons of Interest

<https://advance.lexis.com/documentpage/?pdmfid=1000516&crd=8fe9c255-0ae0-4d95-885c-9e6f74abadde&config=014EJAA2ZmE1OTU3OC0xMGRjLTRINTctOTQ3Zi0wMDE2MWFhYzAwN2MKAFBvZENhdGFsb2e9wg3LFiffInanDd3V39aA&pddocfullpath=%2Fshared%2Fdocument%2Fstatutes-legislation%2Furn%3AcontentItem%3A688G-7CY3-CGX8-04KS-00008-00&pdcontentcomponentid=234188&pdteaserkey=sr8&pdtab=allpods&ecomp=6s65kkk&earg=sr8&prid=995ebc65-fff8-4ba8-919d-1502a82bc271>

Health General - 7.5-501 Establishment of Hotline

<https://advance.lexis.com/documentpage/?pdmfid=1000516&crd=e77b6556-67d3-4e29-b9c6-112b66d3fa61&config=014EJAA2ZmE1OTU3OC0xMGRjLTRINTctOTQ3Zi0wMDE2MWFhYzAwN2MKAFBvZENhdGFsb2e9wg3LFiffInanDd3V39aA&pddocfullpath=%2Fshared%2Fdocument%2Fstatutes-legislation%2Furn%3AcontentItem%3A63SM-VX11-DYB7-W092-00008-00&pdcontentcomponentid=234188&pdteaserkey=sr12&pdtab=allpods&ecomp=6s65kkk&earg=sr12&prid=08e88787-1f63-49cc-8583-d1f3802ed637>

Health General - 2-803

<https://advance.lexis.com/documentpage/?pdmfid=1000516&crd=cd18f540-2e02-4acd-8d3f-a726ffaf5b2f&config=014EJAA2ZmE1OTU3OC0xMGRjLTRINTctOTQ3Zi0wMDE2MWFhYzAwN2MKAFBvZENhdGFsb2e9wg3LFiffInanDd3V39aA&pddocfullpath=%2Fshared%2Fdocument%2Fstatutes-legislation%2Furn%3AcontentItem%3A63SM-VX01-DYB7-W51P-00008-00&pdcontentcomponentid=234188&pdteaserkey=sr17&pdtab=allpods&ecomp=6s65kkk&earg=sr17&prid=08e88787-1f63-49cc-8583-d1f3802ed637>

Health General - 19-126 Certificate of Need

<https://advance.lexis.com/documentpage/?pdmfid=1000516&crd=c057b64a-d2d6-43c3-9502-438d9025cdb6&config=014EJAA2ZmE1OTU3OC0xMGRjLTRINTctOTQ3Zi0wMDE2MWFhYzAwN2MKAFBvZENhdGFsb2e9wg3LFiffInanDd3V39aA&pddocfullpath=%2Fshared%2Fdocument%2Fstatutes-legislation%2Furn%3AcontentItem%3A63SM-VX11-DYB7-W1NC-00008-00&pdcontentcomponentid=234188&pdteaserkey=sr18&pditab=allpods&ecomp=6s65kkk&earg=sr18&prid=08e88787-1f63-49cc-8583-d1f3802ed637>

“THIRD-PARTY PAYOR” - USE IN INSURANCE ARTICLE

Insurance – 14-138 Disclosure of Medical & Claims Information

<https://advance.lexis.com/documentpage/?pdmfid=1000516&crd=a94d7382-953f-4f44-969e-8710801dadee&config=014EJAA2ZmE1OTU3OC0xMGRjLTRINTctOTQ3Zi0wMDE2MWFhYzAwN2MKAFBvZENhdGFsb2e9wg3LFiffInanDd3V39aA&pddocfullpath=%2Fshared%2Fdocument%2Fstatutes-legislation%2Furn%3AcontentItem%3A63SM-VXT1-DYB7-W0N0-00008-00&pdcontentcomponentid=234188&pdteaserkey=sr6&pditab=allpods&ecomp=6s65kkk&earg=sr6&prid=c03a4736-2b93-42f5-8c80-fec97781dffd>

Insurance – 15-1003 Uniform Claims Forms Required

<https://advance.lexis.com/documentpage/?pdmfid=1000516&crd=c86cdc5c-af72-45b1-8eda-e5cdc4407b07&config=014EJAA2ZmE1OTU3OC0xMGRjLTRINTctOTQ3Zi0wMDE2MWFhYzAwN2MKAFBvZENhdGFsb2e9wg3LFiffInanDd3V39aA&pddocfullpath=%2Fshared%2Fdocument%2Fstatutes-legislation%2Furn%3AcontentItem%3A63SM-VXT1-DYB7-W12K-00008-00&pdcontentcomponentid=234188&pdteaserkey=sr10&pditab=allpods&ecomp=6s65kkk&earg=sr10&prid=bd0d7556-e533-4282-9109-db7ba4fc8f71>

15-10B-01 Definitions

<https://advance.lexis.com/documentpage/?pdmfid=1000516&crd=9258a613-0d6e-44e0-8727-74d60a56706f&config=014EJAA2ZmE1OTU3OC0xMGRjLTRINTctOTQ3Zi0wMDE2MWFhYzAwN2MKAFBvZENhdGFsb2e9wg3LFiffInanDd3V39aA&pddocfullpath=%2Fshared%2Fdocument%2Fstatutes-legislation%2Furn%3AcontentItem%3A63SM-VXT1-DYB7-W13D-00008-00&pdcontentcomponentid=234188&pdteaserkey=sr15&pditab=allpods&ecomp=6s65kkk&earg=sr15&prid=bd0d7556-e533-4282-9109-db7ba4fc8f71>

Insurance – 15-10B-05 Certificates – Additional Information

<https://advance.lexis.com/documentpage/?pdmfid=1000516&crd=d511785d-1529-4367-80e0-f1a98f33112a&config=014EJAA2ZmE1OTU3OC0xMGRjLTRINTctOTQ3Zi0wMDE2MWFhYzAwN2MKAFBvZENhdGFsb2e9wg3LFiffInanDd3V39aA&pddocfullpath=%2Fshared%2Fdocument%2Fstatutes-legislation%2Furn%3AcontentItem%3A63SM-VXT1-DYB7-W13J-00008-00&pdcontentcomponentid=234188&pdteaserkey=sr11&pditab=allpods&ecomp=6s65kkk&earg=sr11&prid=bd0d7556-e533-4282-9109-db7ba4fc8f71>

“THIRD-PARTY PAYOR” – USE IN TRANSPORTATION ARTICLE

Transportation – 5-415 Ambulance Transport Fees

<https://advance.lexis.com/documentpage/?pdmfid=1000516&crd=12946763-c9be-4293-b6de-97bebb39e381&config=014EJAA2ZmE1OTU3OC0xMGRjLTRINTctOTQ3Zi0wMDE2MWFhYzAwN2MKAFBvZENhdGFsb2e9wg3LFiffInanDd3V39aA&pddocfullpath=%2Fshared%2Fdocument%2F>

[tatutes-legislation%2Furn%3AcontentItem%3A63SM-W1B1-DYB7-W3RH-00008-00&pdcontentcomponentid=234188&pdteaserkey=sr16&pditab=allpods&ecomp=6s65kkk&earg=sr16&prid=bd0d7556-e533-4282-9109-db7ba4fc8f71](https://advance.lexis.com/documentpage/?pdmfid=1000516&crd=bdfcca49-6175-4c15-94f5-8387243e2b24&config=014EJAA2ZmE1OTU3OC0xMGRjLTRINTctOTQ3Zi0wMDE2MWFhYzAwN2MKAFBvZENhdGFsb2e9wg3LFiffInanDd3V39aA&pddocfullpath=%2Fshared%2Fdocument%2Fstatutes-legislation%2Furn%3AcontentItem%3A63SM-W1B1-DYB7-W3RH-00008-00&pdcontentcomponentid=234188&pdteaserkey=sr16&pditab=allpods&ecomp=6s65kkk&earg=sr16&prid=bd0d7556-e533-4282-9109-db7ba4fc8f71)

Transportation – 15-212 Refusal, Suspension, Revocation of License

<https://advance.lexis.com/documentpage/?pdmfid=1000516&crd=bdfcca49-6175-4c15-94f5-8387243e2b24&config=014EJAA2ZmE1OTU3OC0xMGRjLTRINTctOTQ3Zi0wMDE2MWFhYzAwN2MKAFBvZENhdGFsb2e9wg3LFiffInanDd3V39aA&pddocfullpath=%2Fshared%2Fdocument%2Fstatutes-legislation%2Furn%3AcontentItem%3A63SM-W1B1-DYB7-W515-00008-00&pdcontentcomponentid=234188&pdteaserkey=sr23&pditab=allpods&ecomp=6s65kkk&earg=sr23&prid=77443d51-96cb-44d5-961f-873c22822424>

“THIRD-PARTY PAYOR” – USE IN CORRECTIONAL SERVICES ARTICLE

Correctional Services – 11-203 Health & Welfare of Incarcerated Individuals

<https://advance.lexis.com/documentpage/?pdmfid=1000516&crd=296e3a23-1ad6-4850-b045-494136d8fa63&config=014EJAA2ZmE1OTU3OC0xMGRjLTRINTctOTQ3Zi0wMDE2MWFhYzAwN2MKAFBvZENhdGFsb2e9wg3LFiffInanDd3V39aA&pddocfullpath=%2Fshared%2Fdocument%2Fstatutes-legislation%2Furn%3AcontentItem%3A63SM-VT71-DYB7-W0TX-00008-00&pdcontentcomponentid=234188&pdteaserkey=sr13&pditab=allpods&ecomp=6s65kkk&earg=sr13&prid=bd0d7556-e533-4282-9109-db7ba4fc8f71>

“THIRD-PARTY PAYOR” – USE IN ESTATES & TRUSTS ARTICLE

Estates & Trust – 3-410 Payment of Elective Share

<https://advance.lexis.com/documentpage/?pdmfid=1000516&crd=55b6b8bd-c803-4d94-98d3-6575407237ef&config=014EJAA2ZmE1OTU3OC0xMGRjLTRINTctOTQ3Zi0wMDE2MWFhYzAwN2MKAFBvZENhdGFsb2e9wg3LFiffInanDd3V39aA&pddocfullpath=%2Fshared%2Fdocument%2Fstatutes-legislation%2Furn%3AcontentItem%3A63SM-VW81-DYB7-W0JK-00008-00&pdcontentcomponentid=234188&pdteaserkey=sr19&pditab=allpods&ecomp=6s65kkk&earg=sr19&prid=bd0d7556-e533-4282-9109-db7ba4fc8f71>