



## 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, Maryland 21215

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### 2025 SESSION POSITION PAPER

**BILL NO:** HB 406  
**COMMITTEE:** Health and Government Operations  
**POSITION:** Support

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**TITLE:** State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech–Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists – Appointment of Members and Quorum

**BILL ANALYSIS:** The bill when enacted, removes professional organizations from the Board’s appointment process; and amends what constitutes a quorum for full Board meetings.

**POSITION AND RATIONALE:**

The Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists and Music Therapists (AHSM) is in full support of HB 406.

To ensure equity and consistency, the Board seeks amendment to the current statute by removing professional organizations from the member appointment process. This action would greatly benefit the Board, as it could potentially increase the selection pool of qualified applicants and assist with filling Board vacancies in shorter timeframes.

Additionally, the Board wishes to amend the guidelines set forth under Health Occupations Article, § 2–204(a). To conduct business, a quorum is described as “a majority of the appointed members of the Board, with at least 1 audiologist, hearing aid dispenser, speech-language pathologist, and music therapist regulated under the provisions of this title being present, is a quorum to do business.” At times, the current statute has created a hardship for the Board. On multiple occasions, meetings have been postponed and/or delayed, due to lack of discipline representation. Occurrences of this nature cause an unnecessary loss of time and productivity. Furthermore, it creates a level of unfairness to those who are present and are kept waiting for a meeting to begin. Overall, the requested amendment to state: “A majority of the appointed

members of the Board is a quorum to do business,” will result in better business practices for the Board.

The State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists and Music Therapists, respectfully requests a favorable report on HB 406.

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, 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.*