



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: HB 1298
COMMITTEE: HGO
POSITION: Support

TITLE: Health Occupations – Practice Audiology – Definition

BILL ANALYSIS: HB 1298 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”) supports HB 1298.

This legislation is fundamentally aligned with HB 464, which was passed with broad bipartisan support in 2024. Audiologists, by virtue of their doctoral education and clinical training, are the foremost healthcare professionals in the diagnosis, evaluation, management, and treatment of hearing (audiologic) and balance (vestibular) disorders. Their specialized expertise uniquely positions them to provide the highest standard of care for individuals with these conditions, while also collaborating with other healthcare professionals, when necessary.

It is imperative that audiologists maintain full autonomy in determining the most effective course of treatment for their patients. No other medical or healthcare profession possesses the same depth of knowledge and training specific to audiologic and vestibular disorders. Since the enactment of the current law on October 1, 2024, there have been documented cases demonstrating its critical role in treating Maryland constituents.

For the above stated reasons, the Board respectfully requests a favorable report on HB 1298.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to 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.