



Health and Government  
Operations Committee

*Subcommittees*

Government Operations  
and Health Facilities

Insurance and Pharmaceuticals

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of House Bill 406: State Board of Examiners for Audiologists,  
Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists –  
- Appointment of Members and Quorum**

**Health and Government Operations Committee**

**January 30, 2025**

Good afternoon, Chair, Vice-Chair, and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee. I'm Delegate Pam Guzzone representing Howard County's District 13 and I am here in support of House Bill 406 which modifies in two ways the statute governing the State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists.

First, the bill eliminates the role of professional organizations from the Board's appointment process. Currently there is inconsistency in the appointment process: professional associations are part of the appointment process for some but not all the professions included on the Board. Eliminating the role of associations will not only increase consistency but also supports a broader and more equitable pool of qualified applicants. With these changes, the Board will directly notify all licensed practitioners of vacancies and solicit nominations for submission to the Secretary of Health and the Governor.

Second, HB 406 will modify the requirement for what constitutes a quorum. The current statute requires a quorum to include at least one representative from each discipline—an audiologist, hearing aid dispenser, speech-language pathologist, and a music therapist. This requirement frequently causes delays in addressing key issues since if a representative from one discipline is not available, there's not a quorum, and official business cannot be conducted. The bill amends the quorum requirement to being a majority of the appointed members of the Board.

These amendments reflect the evolving needs of the Board and practitioners, allowing it to function more effectively while promoting equity and inclusivity in the appointment process. I respectfully request a favorable report for HB 406.