



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

2025 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO: HB 256
COMMITTEE: Health and Government Operations
POSITION: Support

TITLE: Health Occupations Boards - Membership Alteration and Sunset Extensions

BILL ANALYSIS: The bill, when enacted, extends the termination of the statutory and regulatory authority of several Health Occupation Boards, including the Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists and Music Therapists (the “Board”) until July 1, 2031. The bill also increases the number of board member positions of the State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners from seven to nine.

POSITION AND RATIONALE:

The Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists and Music Therapists is in full support of HB 256.

The Board greatly desires the continuation of all regulatory and statutory authority, as it relates to the provisions set forth by the Maryland Program Evaluation Act (sunset law). An extension is imperative to allow the Board to execute the delegated responsibilities of licensure and discipline. The Board serves a steadily increasing workforce population and provides support to over 6,000 occupation health professionals.

The State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists and Music Therapists, respectfully requests a favorable report on HB 256.

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, the Legislative Liaison for the boards at lillian.reese@maryland.gov or at 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.