

HOUSE BILL 406

P1

5lr1609
CF 5lr1608

By: Delegates Guzzone, Hill, Shetty, White Holland, ~~and Woods~~ Woods, Bagnall, Bhandari, Chisholm, Cullison, Hutchinson, S. Johnson, Kaiser, Kerr, Kipke, Lopez, Martinez, Pena-Melnyk, Reilly, Rosenberg, Szeliga, Taveras, and Woorman

Introduced and read first time: January 16, 2025
Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
House action: Adopted
Read second time: February 25, 2025

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers,**
3 **Speech–Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists – Appointment of Hearing**
4 **Aid Dispenser Members ~~and Quorum~~**

5 FOR the purpose of altering the appointment process for licensed ~~audiologist,~~ hearing aid
6 dispenser, ~~and music therapist~~ members of the State Board of Examiners for
7 Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech–Language Pathologists, and Music
8 Therapists; ~~altering the requirements for a quorum of the Board;~~ and generally
9 relating to the State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers,
10 Speech–Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
12 Article – Health Occupations
13 Section 2–202(a)(1) and ~~(2)(i), (v), and (vi)~~ (2)(v)
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
17 Article – Health Occupations
18 Section ~~2–202(a)(5), (6), and (8)~~ and ~~2–204(a)~~ 2–202(a)(6)
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
2 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

3 **Article – Health Occupations**

4 2–202.

5 (a) (1) The Board consists of 15 members.

6 (2) Of the 15 Board members:

7 ~~(i) 3 shall be licensed audiologists who have at least 5 years' paid~~
8 ~~work experience in audiology and are currently practicing audiology in the State;~~

9 (v) 3 shall be licensed hearing aid dispensers who have at least 5
10 years' paid work experience in dispensing hearing aids and are currently practicing hearing
11 aid dispensing in the State; and

12 ~~(vi) 2 shall be licensed music therapists who have at least 5 years'~~
13 ~~paid work experience in music therapy and are currently practicing music therapy in the~~
14 ~~State.~~

15 ~~(5) (i) Subject to subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph, the Governor~~
16 ~~shall appoint the audiologist members, with the advice of the Secretary, from a list~~
17 ~~submitted to the Secretary and the Governor by the [Maryland Academy of Audiology]~~
18 ~~BOARD.~~

19 ~~(ii) The number of names on the list shall be at least 3 times the~~
20 ~~number of vacancies.~~

21 ~~(iii) For each audiologist vacancy, the Board shall notify all licensed~~
22 ~~audiologists in the State of the vacancy to solicit nominations to fill the vacancy.~~

23 (6) (i) The Governor shall appoint the hearing aid dispenser members,
24 with the advice of the Secretary, from a list submitted to the Secretary and the Governor
25 by the [Maryland members of the Hearing Society of Maryland, Washington, D.C., and
26 Delaware] **BOARD.**

27 (ii) The number of names on the list shall be at least 3 times the
28 number of vacancies.

29 **(III) FOR EACH HEARING AID DISPENSER VACANCY, THE BOARD**
30 **SHALL NOTIFY ALL LICENSED HEARING AID DISPENSERS IN THE STATE OF THE**
31 **VACANCY TO SOLICIT NOMINATIONS TO FILL THE VACANCY.**

1 ~~(S) (i) The Governor shall appoint the music therapist members, with~~
2 ~~the advice of the Secretary, from a list submitted to the Secretary and the Governor by the~~
3 ~~[Maryland Association for Music Therapy] BOARD.~~

4 ~~(ii) The number of names on the list shall be at least 3 times the~~
5 ~~number of vacancies.~~

6 ~~(iii) FOR EACH MUSIC THERAPIST VACANCY, THE BOARD SHALL~~
7 ~~NOTIFY ALL LICENSED MUSIC THERAPISTS IN THE STATE OF THE VACANCY TO~~
8 ~~SOLICIT NOMINATIONS TO FILL THE VACANCY.~~

9 ~~[(iii)] (iv) On or before December 31, 2021, the music therapist~~
10 ~~members shall be board certified music therapists, as defined in § 2-4A-01 of this title.~~

11 ~~[(iv)] (v) On or after January 1, 2022, the music therapist members~~
12 ~~shall be licensed professional music therapists, as defined in § 2-4A-01 of this title.~~

13 ~~2-204.~~

14 ~~(a) A majority of the APPOINTED members [currently serving on] OF the Board[,~~
15 ~~with at least 1 audiologist, hearing aid dispenser, speech language pathologist, and music~~
16 ~~therapist regulated under the provisions of this title being present,] is a quorum to do~~
17 ~~business.~~

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
19 1, 2025.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.