
SB 379

**Health Occupations – Registration of
Audiology Assistants**

— Senator Clarence Lam —
District 12



Audiology Assistants Background

- Audiology Assistants are responsible for cleaning, operating, and assisting with hearing devices for patients.
 - They also prep exam rooms, complete screening protocols, and work in tandem with an audiologist.
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- Under this bill, audiology assistants must have a high school diploma and meet the requirements of the Board of Examiners.
 - Audiology Assistants allow Audiologists to provide patient care at the top of their scope of practice

Audiology Assistant Duties



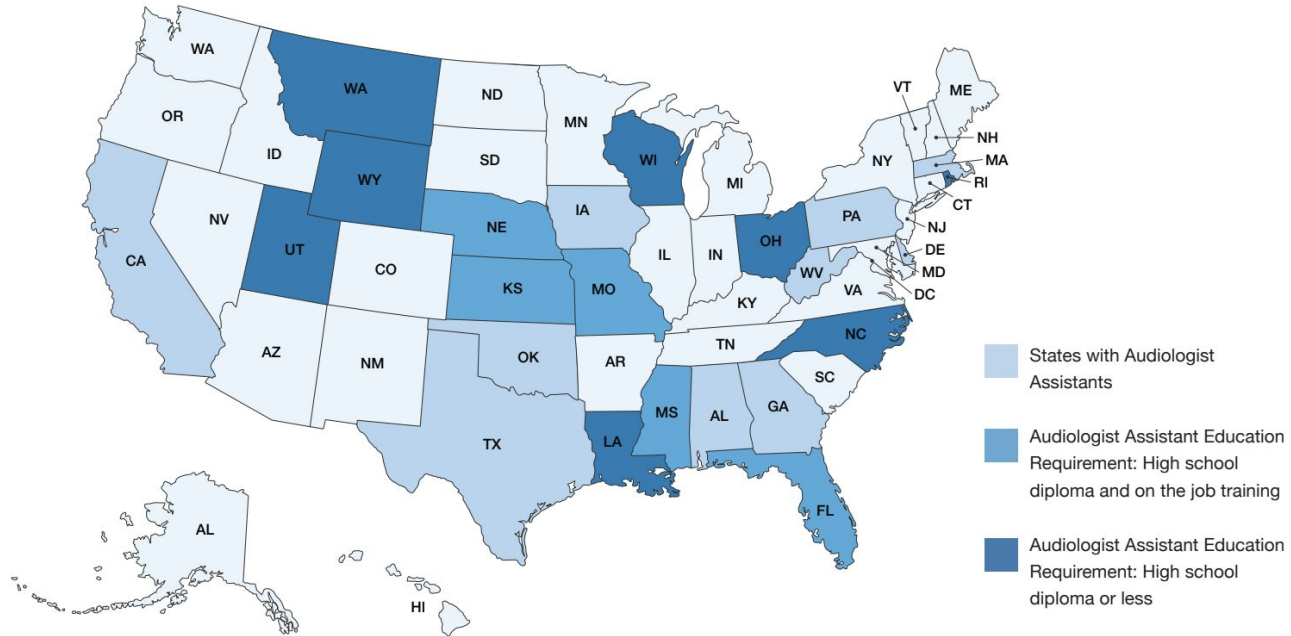
Duties of an Audiology Assistant include:

- Routine cleaning of hearing devices
- General instruction of device use
- Prepping exam rooms, equipment, patients
- Completing screening (pass/fail) protocols
- Other tasks delegated by the audiologist

Why transition to Audiology Assistant licensure?

- 22 states regulate AAs. several are pursuing legislation in 2021.
- Protect the public by introducing practice standards to those already serving as audiology assistants.
- Audiologists cannot see as many patients as they used to while complying with COVID-19 protocols.
- Audiologists are already using assistance and regulation can ensure patient safety.
- This bill will introduce up to 900 jobs in the State with an average starting pay of \$17 an hour.

Detailed Breakdown of AAs in the United States



SB 379 - Primary Functions

- Creates a license for audiology assistants and sets minimum qualification
- Establishes supervision requirements
- Applies audiology disciplinary grounds to audiology assistants

Why Maryland Needs SB 379

- Keep Maryland constituents safe by regulating the industry.
- Introduce up to 900 jobs at \$17 an hour that do not require a college degree.
- Increase access to medical care for Maryland's elderly, disabled, and pediatric population.

