

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2018 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

House Bill 168 (Chair, Health and Government Operations  
Committee)(By Request - Departmental - Health)

Health and Government Operations

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**State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, and Speech-  
Language Pathologists - Inactive Status of Licenses**

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This departmental bill establishes an “inactive status” classification for licensees of the State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, and Speech-Language Pathologists. The board must place a licensee on inactive status if the licensee submits an application and pays the inactive status fee.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** As the bill generally codifies existing practice, any impact on the board is anticipated to be minimal.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** The Department of Health has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). The Department of Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** A licensee on inactive status may not practice audiology, hearing aid dispensing, or speech-language pathology or assist in the practice of speech-language pathology while the license is on inactive status.

The board may not place a licensee on inactive status for more than two years, though a licensee may renew the inactive status for up to two consecutive additional terms. The

board must provide a licensee who has applied for inactive status with specified written notification, including the consequences of not reactivating his or her license. A licensee on inactive status may reactivate the license at any time by paying the reactivation fee and complying with any other requirements.

If a licensee fails to renew the inactive status or reactivate the license, the license must be placed on nonrenewed status. A licensee whose license has been placed on nonrenewed status may apply to reinstate the license if the licensee (1) meets the requirements for the waiver of specified licensing requirements pertaining to audiologists and speech-language pathologists or (2) meets the current requirements for obtaining a new license, as well as the continuing education requirements.

**Current Law/Background:** Statute does not provide for an inactive status for licensees of the board. However, the board advises that a licensee may request inactive status when they renew their license. Inactive status is good for two years but may be renewed for an additional two years. The fee is \$25. An individual may reactivate the license at any time providing all fees are paid and all continuing education requirements are met.

The board advises that, as of December 31, 2017, 471 audiologists, 120 hearing aid dispensers, 4,072 speech-language pathologists, and 81 speech-language pathology assistants are licensed to practice in the State. An additional 243 individuals are currently registered as inactive status.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 24, 2018  
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**ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES**

**Department of Health  
Session 2018**

**TITLE:** Board of Examiners of Audiologists, Hearing Aid  
Dispensers, and Speech-Language Pathologists –  
Licensure – Inactive Status

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**PREPARED BY:** Linda Beyer, Fiscal Officer

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**(Program\Unit):** Health Occupations Boards and Commissions

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**PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING**

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

  X   WILL HAVE MINIMAL OR NO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND  
SMALL BUSINESS

OR

       WILL HAVE MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND  
SMALL BUSINESSES

**PART B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS**

No Impact