

HOUSE BILL 464

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4lr2129
CF SB 795

By: ~~Delegate Martinez~~ Delegates Martinez, Alston, Bagnall, Bhandari, Cullison, Guzzone, S. Johnson, Kerr, R. Lewis, Lopez, Pena-Melnyk, Rosenberg, Taveras, White Holland, and Woods

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2024
Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
House action: Adopted
Read second time: March 7, 2024

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Occupations – Practice Audiology – Definition**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the definition of “practice audiology” for the purposes of certain
4 provisions of law governing the licensure and regulation of audiologists; and
5 generally relating to the practice of audiology.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
7 Article – Health Occupations
8 Section 2–101(a)
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article – Health Occupations
13 Section 2–101(q)
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

16 BY adding to
17 Article – Health Occupations
18 Section 2–101(r–1)
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 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 2–101.

5 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

6 (q) **(1)** “Practice audiology” means to~~l~~:

7 ~~(1) Apply the principles, methods, and procedures of measurement,~~
8 ~~prediction, evaluation, testing, counseling, consultation, and instruction that relate to the~~
9 ~~development and disorders of hearing, vestibular functions, and related language and~~
10 ~~speech disorders, to prevent or modify the disorders or assist individuals in hearing and~~
11 ~~auditory and related skills for communication; and] **USE ANY MEANS KNOWN IN THE**~~
12 ~~**SCIENCE OF AUDIOLOGY TO:**~~

13 **(I) EVALUATE, DIAGNOSE, MANAGE, AND TREAT AUDITORY OR**
14 **VESTIBULAR CONDITIONS IN THE HUMAN EAR;**

15 **[(2)] (II) Prescribe, order, sell, dispense, or fit hearing aids to an**
16 **individual for the correction or relief of a condition for which hearing aids are worn;**

17 **(III) PRESCRIBE, ORDER, SELL, DISPENSE, OR EXTERNALLY FIT**
18 **A SOUND PROCESSOR TO AN OSSEO-INTEGRATED DEVICE FOR THE CORRECTION OR**
19 **RELIEF OF A CONDITION FOR WHICH OSSEO-INTEGRATED DEVICES ARE WORN; AND**

20 **(IV) PRESCRIBE, ORDER, SELL, DISPENSE, OR EXTERNALLY FIT**
21 **A SOUND PROCESSOR TO A COCHLEAR IMPLANT FOR THE CORRECTION OR RELIEF**
22 **OF A CONDITION FOR WHICH COCHLEAR IMPLANTS ARE WORN.**

23 **(2) “PRACTICE AUDIOLOGY” INCLUDES:**

24 **(I) THE CONDUCTING OF HEALTH SCREENINGS;**

25 **(II) THE REMOVAL OF A FOREIGN BODY FROM THE EXTERNAL**
26 **AUDITORY CANAL THAT IS NOT IMPACTED TO THE POINT IT REQUIRES ANESTHESIA;**

27 **(III) THE REMOVAL OF CERUMEN FROM THE EXTERNAL**
28 **AUDITORY CANAL THAT IS NOT IMPACTED TO THE POINT IT REQUIRES ANESTHESIA;**

29 **(IV) THE ORDERING OF CULTURES AND BLOODWORK TESTING**
30 **AS IT RELATES TO THE AUDITORY OR VESTIBULAR CONDITIONS IN THE HUMAN EAR;**

1 (V) THE ORDERING AND PERFORMING OF IN-OFFICE,
2 NONRADIOGRAPHIC SCANNING OR IMAGING OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITORY CANAL;
3 AND

4 (VI) THE ORDERING OF RADIOGRAPHIC IMAGING AS IT RELATES
5 TO THE AUDITORY OR VESTIBULAR CONDITIONS IN THE HUMAN EAR.

6 (3) "PRACTICE AUDIOLOGY" DOES NOT INCLUDE:

7 (I) SURGERY USING AN INSTRUMENT, INCLUDING A LASER, A
8 SCALPEL, A NEEDLE, CAUTERY, A CRYOPROBE, OR A SUTURE, IN WHICH HUMAN
9 TISSUE IS CUT, BURNED, VAPORIZED, REMOVED, OR OTHERWISE PERMANENTLY
10 ALTERED BY MECHANICAL MEANS, LASER, IONIZING RADIATION, ULTRASOUND, OR
11 OTHER MEANS;

12 (II) OSSEO-INTEGRATED DEVICE SURGERY;

13 (III) COCHLEAR IMPLANT SURGERY; OR

14 (IV) THE PREPARATION, OPERATION, OR PERFORMANCE OF
15 RADIOGRAPHIC IMAGING.

16 (R-1) "SOUND PROCESSOR" MEANS A NONSURGICAL, EXTERNAL UNIT THAT
17 ATTACHES TO AN INTERNAL OSSEO-INTEGRATED DEVICE OR COCHLEAR IMPLANT.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
19 October 1, 2024.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.