

# SENATE BILL 795

J2

4lr1744  
CF HB 464

---

By: **Senators Gile, Beidle, Ellis, Hershey, Klausmeier, Lewis Young, Mautz, Ready, and A. Washington**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2024

Assigned to: Finance

---

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 2, 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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House of Delegates.