

CHAPTER 391

(House Bill 326)

AN ACT concerning

Maryland Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, and Speech-Language Pathologists Act - Revision

FOR the purpose of specifying that certain provisions of law apply to certain individuals who practice audiology, hearing aid dispensing, or speech-language pathology, or assist in the practice of speech-language pathology; ~~specifying that certain provisions of law do not authorize certain licenses to practice medicine, perform surgery, or prescribe pharmaceutical agents;~~ requiring certain members of the State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, and Speech-Language Pathologists to currently practice in the State; requiring a Board member to be a consumer of services provided by an individual licensed by the Board; repealing the requirement that certain notice and a certain balloting process be given by mail; altering certain qualifications for certain members of the Board; providing that a majority of members currently serving on the Board is a quorum; requiring the Board to appoint an executive director; authorizing the Board to regulate the practice of telehealth communications by audiologists, hearing aid dispensers, and speech-language pathologists; repealing the authority of the Board to inspect facilities used by licensed hearing aid dispensers; requiring the Board to adopt and publish a code of ethics for the assistance of the practice of speech-language pathology; authorizing the Board to require that certain licensed speech-language pathology assistants submit to an examination by a certain health care provider during certain investigations; requiring an individual to be licensed by the Board before assisting in the practice of speech-language pathology; requiring that on or before a certain date, certain individuals hired to practice speech-language pathology or assist in the practice of speech-language pathology by certain schools and educational institutions be licensed; exempting certain individuals employed by certain schools or educational institutions continuously since on or before a certain date from certain licensing requirements; repealing a certain licensure exemption for individuals who fit hearing aids; altering and adding speech-language pathology assistants to the requirements for the authorization to practice without a license for certain audiologists, hearing aid dispensers, and speech-language pathologists who are licensed in another state; requiring that certain applicants demonstrate oral competency; requiring that applicants for a license to practice audiology have certain degrees before or after a certain date; altering certain requirements to qualify for a license to practice hearing aid dispensing after a certain date; repealing the option of an applicant to have the equivalent of a master's degree