

I believe the removal of the two physician members, also known as ear, nose and throat specialists (ENTs), from the Board is not in the best interests of Maryland consumers who rely upon the Board to conduct its business from a multi-disciplinary perspective. The State Board argued during deliberation of this legislation that it believes the citizens of Maryland benefit from the medical and clinical expertise that the two ENT members bring to the Board. Moreover, the physician members of the Board have supported an increased scope of practice for audiologists and speech-language pathologists, and their presence continues to build upon the growing cooperation and support among the disciplines represented on the Board. The structure of the current Board brings together all of the relevant professions involved in hearing and speech health care for Maryland.

For the above stated reasons, I have vetoed SB 588.

Sincerely,  
Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.  
Governor

### Senate Bill No. 588

AN ACT concerning

#### **State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, and Speech-Language Pathologists - Membership ~~and Scope of Authority~~**

FOR the purpose of ~~specifying that provisions of law regulating audiologists, hearing aid dispensers, and speech language pathologists do not limit the right of a physician to dispense hearing aids;~~ decreasing the number of Board members to a certain number; providing for the termination of the term of office of certain board members; and generally relating to the composition ~~and scope of authority~~ of the State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, and Speech-Language Pathologists.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Health Occupations

Section ~~2-102 and~~ 2-202(a)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2000 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

#### **Article - Health Occupations**

##### ~~2-102.~~

~~This title does not:~~

~~(1) Limit the right of an individual to practice a health occupation that the individual is authorized to practice under this article;~~