



MARYLAND Department of Health

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

January 8, 2020

The Hearing Society of Maryland, Washington, D.C., and Delaware
c/o Jim Orban
Sent via email – thehearingsociety@aol.com

Dear Mr. Orban:

The appointment terms of George Sheckells and John Cummins serving as hearing aid dispensers on the Maryland State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers and Speech-Language Pathologists will expire on June 30, 2020. Mr. Sheckells has served two consecutive terms and is NOT eligible for reappointment to the Board.

Pursuant to §2-202, (a)(6) of the Health Occupations Annotated Code of Maryland, the Governor shall appoint the hearing aid dispenser members, with the advice of the Secretary, from a list submitted by the Maryland members of the Hearing Society of Maryland, Washington, D.C., & Delaware. Each nominee must be a resident of Maryland and may not be an employee of the Department of Health. Nominees must have five years of paid work experience. I have attached a copy of the membership section of the Board's statute for your reference. Information on the Board including meeting times, location, and other general information is enclosed.

The Department of Health is requesting that the Hearing Society of Maryland, Washington, D.C., & Delaware (Society) submit a list of nominees to my attention by March 27, 2020. In accordance with the Board statute, a list of six nominees is requested.

The Department is committed to creating geographic, gender and ethnic diverse representation on each Board. This helps to ensure that decisions reached more adequately reflect the viewpoints of all populations being served and advance the groups' mission. We request your assistance in this effort and ask that you address this concern when identifying the most talented individuals to submit as nominees.

Each nominee must submit an online application via the Governor's Appointments Office website, <https://govapps.md.gov/appointments/apply/> by March 27, 2020. Applicants will be required to upload a resume during the application process.

Mr. Jim Urban
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The State Ethics Commission has rendered an advisory opinion #87-1, which addresses the issue of whether members of health regulatory boards may serve as elected officials or directors of professional associations whose members are under the Board's authority. This opinion would be presumed to be a restriction against appointment unless it was clear that their activities would not, in any way, be a conflict of interest. You should be aware that this opinion could be a restriction on the nature of an individual's activities with the association after they are appointed to a regulatory board. Any officer or Board member of a professional association who accepts nomination for appointment to a regulatory board shall give consideration to resigning from the position with the association prior to accepting the appointment. If the nominee does not wish to resign, his position with the association must be clearly stated with the submission of the nominee's name, to the Secretary of Health and subsequently on the Appointee Exemption Disclosure Forms filed as part of the online application. A determination of eligibility will then be made by the appointment authority.

Thank you for assisting the Department in the appointment process. We look forward to hearing from the Society on or before March 27, 2020. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 410-767-4049 or Kim.Bennardi@Maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kim Bennardi", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Kim Bennardi, Administrator
Office of Appointments and Executive Nominations

Enclosures

cc: Candace G. Robinson, Au.D, Board Executive Director
Jennifer Mertes, Au.D., Board Chair