

**Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers and  
Speech-Language Pathologists**  
4201 Patterson Avenue  
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## House Bill 326 Changed the Board Statute

There are numerous changes in the Board Statute. The amendments changing the licensure requirements for audiologists, hearing aid dispensers and speech-language pathologists are of the utmost importance. Now inclusive in the law effective **October 1, 2007**, any newly hired personnel who provide speech-language pathology services in the public schools, State approved nonpublic school for handicapped children or chartered educational institutions must be licensed as a speech-language pathologist or speech-language pathology assistant. The law does not apply to individuals hired by the schools prior to October 1, 2007. Students enrolled in graduate programs in SLP and AUD are exempted from the license requirement if they are obtaining clinical hours (§-301.(a)(2)). Effective **October 1, 2007**, an applicant for a full license as an audiologist will be required to have a doctoral degree. An audiologist who received a license based on a master's degree prior to October 1, 2007 will qualify for a license to practice in Maryland (§2-302.(c)(1)(i)). Effective **January 1, 2008**, all candidates will be required to have a two year degree or diploma from an accredited college or university to apply for a hearing aid dispenser license. Hearing Aid Dispensers will also be required to complete the comprehensive coursework on hearing aid dispensing sponsored by the International Hearing Aid Society prior to sitting for the licensing examination (§2-302.1(a)).

The Board has submitted Regulatory changes to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Office of Regulation and Policy Coordination. The proposed changes include adopting regulations for **Oral Competency and Supervision of Students**. The Speech-Language Pathology Assistant and limited license for Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists Regulations language was amended. The Board is currently working on a **Telehealth** Regulation. After the formal approval of the new regulations they will be posted on the Board's Web site at [www.mdboardaudhadslp.org](http://www.mdboardaudhadslp.org). The Board will print an updated edition of the Law and Regulations as soon as all the regulatory changes are approved. If you have questions you may call 410-764-4725.

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 The Board amended Regulations **10.41.01.02 -Fees** to establish fees for license verification, returned checks and rosters. **COMAR 10.41.01.04 Fee Exemptions** will exempt current licensees from paying the verification fee. **COMAR 10.41.03.06 Licensure and Continuing Education** was revised by changing the date for completion of the continuing education from June 1 of the renewal year to any time within the 2-year renewal period. The effective date for both changes is January 28, 2008.

## 2007-2008 Board Members Changes

The Board wishes to acknowledge the many years of service of four colleagues and wish them success in their future endeavors. Dr. Caroline Aland served as an audiologist member of the Board for 8 years and as the Board Chair for 2 years. Robert Perkins was appointed in 2000 and resigned in July, 2007 after completing three years of his second term and 2 years as the Hearing Aid Dispenser Co-Chair. Kimberly Webster began her tenure with the Board on July 1, 2003 and resigned on June 30, 2007 after concluding a four year term as a speech-language pathologist member. Jennifer L. Winslow was appointed a consumer member of the Board on July 1, 2003 and resigned on June 30, 2007. Dr. Aland, Mr. Perkins and Mrs. Webster's professional ingenuity enabled the Board to protect the citizens of Maryland and promote quality health care in the field of audiology, hearing aid dispensing and speech-language pathology. As a consumer member, Mrs. Winslow advocated for the public and ensured that the Board was aware of the consumer's perspective.

On July 1, 2007 the Governor appointed four members. Cassandra Peters-Johnson, Ph.D, CCC-SLP, a private practitioner in Bethesda, Maryland, is a speech-language pathologist member. Lisa M. Nelson, Au.D., an audiologist member, is in private practice in Waldorf, Maryland. Kenneth B. Needle, Hearing Aid Dispenser, was appointed to serve the remainder of the four year term of Mr. Perkins which expires June 30, 2008. Mr. Needle practices in Catonsville, Maryland. Arlinda Harris was appointed as a consumer member. Mrs. Harris is very community oriented and is active in numerous civic and non-profit organizations. Because of her commitment to her community Ms. Harris will be an exceptional consumer member. Collectively, the Board members will improve the State of Maryland by promoting ideas that support healthy communities.

## Board Meetings

**February 21, 2008**

**March 20, 2008**

**April 17, 2008**

**May 15, 2008**

**June 19., 2008**

**July 17, 2008**

**August 21, 2008**

**September 18, 2008**

**October 16, 2008**

**November 20, 2008**

**December 18, 2008**

**All meetings are held at 4201 Patterson Avenue and start at 4:00 p.m.. The Regular Session is open to the public and the Administrative Session is closed to the public.**

**STATE OF MARYLAND BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR AUDIOLOGISTS, HEARING AID  
DISPENSERS AND SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS 2007-2008**

The Board of AUD/HAD/SLP has  
thirteen members

- 3 Audiologists
- 3 Speech-Language Pathologists
- 3 Hearing Aid Dispensers
- 2 Otolaryngologists
- 2 Consumer Members

**Board Officers 2007-2008:**

Sharon Sorensen, Au.D. Chair  
Richard Robinson, SLP Co-Chair  
Paul Siegmund, HAD Co-Chair  
M. Cara Erskine, SLP Treasurer

On July 1, 2008, the Board will have one audiologist and one speech-language pathologist and two hearing aid dispensers vacancies.

**BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

**Audiologists**

Sharon Sorensen— term expires 6/2008  
Jay Lucker— term expires 6/2009  
Lisa M. Nelson— term expires 6/2011

**Speech-Language Pathologists**

Richard Robinson— term expires 6/2008  
M. Cara Erskine— term expires 6/2010  
Cassandra Peters-Johnson— term expires 6/2011

Arlinda Harris- term expires 6/2011

**Otolaryngologists**

Milton Yoder-term expires 6/2010  
David Eisenman-term expires 6/2010

**Hearing Aid Dispensers**

Michael Canary, Jr.— term expires 6/2008  
Kenneth B. Needle term expires 6/2008  
Paul Siegmund – term expires 6/2010

**Consumer**

One vacancy

If you are interested in serving on the Board and want to get information about board appointments contact the Maryland Academy of Audiology, the Maryland Speech, Language and Hearing Association or the Hearing Society of Maryland, Washington, D.C and Delaware.

**REMEMBER** The Board voted on January 18, 2007 to accept 5 hours of cultural competency training as part of 10 hours in related areas as satisfying the Board continuing education requirement. Go to the Web site: <http://thinkculturalhealth.org/cccm/> to complete the free CEU training.

If you pass the Board Law Examination, you earn one (1) CEU. Download the law examination on the Board Website [www.mdboardaudhadslp.org](http://www.mdboardaudhadslp.org) and send the completed examination to the Board office. The Board will send a certificate of completion for the one earned CEU. **It is your responsibility to keep proof of the one earned CEU for 4 years.**

The State of Maryland has had Universal Newborn Hearing Screening since 2000. Any audiologist who is performing any of the tests or is responsible for the supervision of programs should be familiar with the Recommended Guidelines for Newborn Hearing Testing. Maryland's Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Advisory Council developed protocols for newborn hearing screening and diagnostic evaluation. For more information go to

[http://www.fha.state.md.us/genetics/pdf/UNHS\\_protocol\\_FINAL04SEPT06.pdf](http://www.fha.state.md.us/genetics/pdf/UNHS_protocol_FINAL04SEPT06.pdf)

The Early Childhood Gateway is a resource for providers and families with young children with disabilities, birth through five. Go to [mdecgateway.org](http://mdecgateway.org)

The Board's Guidelines for the Use of Endoscopy, Topical Anesthesia , Tracheal Suctioning , Policy Statement for Videofluoroscopic(VFSS) and the Minimum Testing and Examinations Requirements for Audiologists and Hearing Aid Dispensers Fitting Hearing Aids are on the Web site [@www.mdboardaudhadslp.org](http://www.mdboardaudhadslp.org). Links Professional & News from the Board.

**RESOURCE  
CORNER**



**THE COUNT**

**FULL LICENSEES**

SLP	<b>2556</b>
AUD	<b>392</b>
HAD	<b>119</b>
SLP-A	<b>18</b>

**LIMITED LICENSEES**

SLP	<b>119</b>
AUD	<b>11</b>
HAD	<b>12</b>
SLP-A	<b>19</b>

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



**Q-How long will it take the Board to approve my application and issue a license?**

**A-** An application will be approved as soon as **ALL** the documents on the Application Checklist are received. A completed applications includes passing the Law Exam. An applicant for limited licensure will receive a written statement which expires within one year. An applicant for full licensure will receive a license issued by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

**Q-Can I have a provisional license pending the approval of my full license so I can start to work?**

**A-** No provisional license is issued. The only exception would be an applicant licensed in another state. In this case the Board gives a verbal approval and/or a written statement that allows the applicant to work pending the approval of the application and the issuance of a full license. ( Refer to 2-305 (c) (3) )

**Q- What can I do if I have lost my license?**

**A-** Mail to the Board a notarized copy of the Lost License Form with the \$5.00 replacement fee. The Board will issue a duplicate license within 10 working days.

**Q- What should I do if I am not sure whether a course or program would be approved by the Board?**

**A-** Not less than 30 days before a program is scheduled, submit to the Board the Application For Approval of Continuing Education Units for Individual Participation .( form on the Web site) Send the completed form, agenda and additional information to the Board.

### **The National Practitioner Data Bank(NPDB) and the Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank(HIPDB)**

The **NPDB** receives and discloses information related to the professional competence and conduct of health care practitioners. The **HIPDB** receives and discloses information related to final adverse action taken against health care practitioners, providers and suppliers. When the Board issues a final public Order, the Board is required by Federal Regulations to report the action to the **HIPDB**.



### **List for Supervising Speech Language Pathology Assistants**

Since the Speech-Language Pathology Assistants licensure program began April 1, 2002 , the Board has licensed 17 full Speech-Language Pathology Assistants and 25 limited Speech-Language Pathology Assistants. To ensure that the Speech-Language Pathology Assistants and the Speech-Language Pathologist Supervisors fully understand the licensure requirement and are in compliance with COMAR 10.41.11 the following summary of requirements is provided:

- Delegation Agreement ( Form SA6) completed by **each** supervising SLP should indicate the exact address of where the SLP-A is practicing,
- Complete the Alternative Plan for Obtaining Required Clinic Hours (Form A4 ) and submit for Board approval **before** the clinical observation/assistance starts,
- A full time SLP can supervise two full-time SLP-Assistants (35 hours) and a part-time SLP (less than 35 hours) can supervise one full-time SLP –A ( 35hours ),
- **All** sections on the Competency Skills Checklist (SA7) must be completed to meet requirements for a full SLP-A licensee and
- All changes in supervision and /or place of employment must be reported to the Board on another SA4 and requires the Board's written approval **before** the change is made .

**Debra Della**-Limited HAD license permanently revoked pursuant to Order of Revocation effective July 19, 2007.

**Kirsten C. Johnson**- Application for SLP license denied pursuant to Order of Denial of Application for Licensure effective September 13, 2007.

**Laura Rubinoff**- SLP licensee reprimanded and placed on probation for one (1) year with conditions pursuant to Consent Order effective September 13, 2007. Petition for early termination of probation granted, and license restored without restrictions or conditions pursuant to Order Lifting Probation effective February 1, 2008.

**Patricia Tschiderer**- SLP license suspension for one (1) year stayed; Licensee placed on probation for two (2) years with conditions pursuant to Consent Order effective May 31, 2007.

## **BOARD DISCIPLINARY INFORMATION**

In FY 2007, the Board received 23 complaints. Seven (7)cases were dismissed with no violation of the statute, and one dismissed because the Board did not have jurisdiction over the matter. The Board sent two (2) Cease and Desist letters to individuals who were practicing without without a license. Six (6) Letters of Education and one(1) Letter of Admonishment were sent. Other cases either have been resolved with formal discipline or still are pending with the Board.

To date in FY 2008 ,the Board has received 5 complaints. Two (2)cases were dismissed with no violation of the statute and the others remain pending with the Board.

Many of the Board's complaints are resolved with informal actions such as a Letter of Education or Letter of Admonishment. Both letters are not a formal disciplinary action, which means the licensee does not have to reveal to any person or report it should anyone ask if the Board has taken any action

Board receives future complaints against the licensee, finds that the individual is guilty of a violation of the Law and decides to pursue formal disciplinary action, the Letters of Education and Admonishment can be taken into consideration in determining an appropriate sanction( i.e. probation, reprimand, suspension, revocation or fine).

The Board expects all licensees to practice within the parameters of the law.

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# NEWS FROM THE BOARD

The Board of Examiners reports although the law was passed two years ago some audiologists and hearing aid dispensers have not updated their contracts. When a consumer complaint is brought to the attention of the Board, not following the law is grounds for disciplinary action.

- **Audiology Alert # 1** Effective October 1, 2005, all hearing testing listed on a hearing aid sales contract is considered part of the price of the hearing aid and is subject to be included in the 10-20 % withheld from a refund. All diagnostic hearing tests must be billed as a separate item and not included in the hearing aid contract in order for the testing to be nonrefundable.
- **Hearing Aid Dispensing Alert#2** Effective October 1, 2005 all hearing aid sales contracts must include the EXACT refundable amount to the patient.
- **AUD/HAD/SLP Supervision Alert # 3** Supervising unlicensed persons performing tasks, which require a license, jeopardizes your professional license.

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I \_\_\_\_\_ submit that my official mailing address changed to :

\_\_\_\_\_ Street

\_\_\_\_\_ City/State

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code

The address changes was /is effective on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ AUD/HAD/SLP License #

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

To change your name you must mail a copy of the official document with your correspondence. If you request a new license there is a \$5.00 fee. Mail all changes to Board AUD/HAD/SLP, 4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21215-2299. Fax to 410-358-0273 or email to [cosbyz@dnhm.state.md.us](mailto:cosbyz@dnhm.state.md.us). **IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE LICENSEE TO REPORT ANY CHANGE OF NAME OR ADDRESS TO THE BOARD WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER THE CHANGE.**