

State of Arkansas

As Engrossed: H3/17/25

95th General Assembly

A Bill

Regular Session, 2025

SENATE BILL 118

By: Senator C. Penzo

By: Representative Bentley

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF "AUDIOLOGY"
RELATING TO THE PRACTICE OF AUDIOLOGISTS; AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF "AUDIOLOGY"
RELATING TO THE PRACTICE OF
AUDIOLOGISTS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-100-103(2), concerning the definition of
"audiology", is amended to read as follows:

(2)(A) "Audiology" means the application of principles, methods,
and procedures of measurement, testing, evaluation, prediction, consultation,
counseling, instruction, habilitation, or rehabilitation related to hearing
and balance disorders of the auditory system for the purpose of evaluating,
identifying, preventing, ameliorating, or modifying such disorders and
conditions in individuals and groups of individuals, including:

(i) Evaluating, diagnosing, managing, and treating
auditory or vestibular conditions in the human ear;

(ii) Prescribing, ordering, selling, dispensing, or
fitting hearing aids to an individual for the correction or relief of a
condition for which hearing aids are worn; and

(iii) Prescribing, ordering, selling, dispensing, or
externally fitting a sound processor to:

(a) An osseointegrated device for the



1 correction or relief of a condition for which osseointegrated devices are
2 worn; or

3 (b) A cochlear implant for the correction or
4 relief of a condition for which cochlear implants are worn.

5 (B) "Audiology" includes:

6 (i) Conducting health screenings;

7 (ii) Removing a foreign body or cerumen from the
8 external auditory canal;

9 (iii) Ordering but not interpreting cultures and
10 bloodwork testing solely as relating to the auditory or vestibular conditions
11 in the human ear;

12 (iv) Ordering and performing in-office
13 nonradiographic testing of the external auditory canal solely for the
14 evaluation of hearing and balance disorders; and

15 (v) Ordering but not interpreting radiographic
16 imaging solely as relating to the auditory or vestibular conditions in the
17 human ear.

18 (C) "Audiology" does not include:

19 (i) Surgery using an instrument, including a laser,
20 scalpel, needle, cautery, cryoprobe, or suture, in which human tissue is cut,
21 burned, vaporized, removed, or otherwise permanently altered by mechanical
22 means, laser, ionizing radiation, ultrasound, or other means;

23 (ii) Osseointegrated device surgery;

24 (iii) Cochlear implant surgery;

25 (iv) The preparation, operation, or performance of
26 radiographic imaging; or

27 (v) The use or interpretation of cultures, bloodwork
28 testing, or radiographic imaging to diagnose or treat;

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30 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 17-100-103, concerning definitions relating
31 to speech-language pathologists and audiologists, is amended to add an
32 additional subdivision to read as follows:

33 (9) "Sound processor" means a nonsurgical, external unit that
34 attaches to an internal osseointegrated device or cochlear implant.
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APPROVED: 4/10/25

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