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3 State of Arkansas  
4 94th General Assembly

# A Bill

JMB/JMB  
SENATE BILL

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6  
7 By: Senator C. Penzo

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9 Filed with: Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor  
10 pursuant to A.C.A. §10-3-217.

## 11 For An Act To Be Entitled

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

### 15 16 17 Subtitle

18 TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF "AUDIOLOGY"  
19 RELATING TO THE PRACTICE OF  
20 AUDIOLOGISTS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

3                    (a) An osseointegrated device for the  
4 correction or relief of a condition for which osseointegrated devices are  
5 worn; or

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

8                    (B) "Audiology" includes without limitation:

9                    (i) Conducting health screenings;

10                   (ii) Removing a foreign body or cerumen from the  
11 external auditory canal;

12                   (iii) Ordering cultures and bloodwork testing;

13                   (iv) Ordering and performing in-office  
14 nonradiographic scanning or imaging of the external auditory canal; and

15                   (v) Ordering radiographic imaging.

16                   (C) "Audiology" does not include:

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

21                   (ii) Osseointegrated device surgery;

22                   (iii) Cochlear impact surgery; or

23                   (iv) The preparation, operation, or performance of  
24 radiographic imaging;

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

29                   (9) "Sound processor" means a nonsurgical, external unit that  
30 attaches to an internal osseointegrated device or cochlear implant.

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33 Referred by Senator C. Penzo

34 Prepared by: JMB/JMB

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