

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 118

5 By: Senator C. Penzo
6 By: Representative Bentley
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

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

14 TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF "AUDIOLOGY"
15 RELATING TO THE PRACTICE OF
16 AUDIOLOGISTS.
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-100-103(2), concerning the definition of
22 "audiology", is amended to read as follows:

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

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

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

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

36 (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 without limitation:

6 (i) Conducting health screenings;

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

9 (iii) Ordering cultures and bloodwork testing;

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

12 (v) Ordering radiographic imaging.

13 (C) "Audiology" does not include:

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

18 (ii) Osseointegrated device surgery;

19 (iii) Cochlear implant surgery; or

20 (iv) The preparation, operation, or performance of
21 radiographic imaging;

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

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