

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

As Engrossed: H3/17/25

A Bill

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



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

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

(B) "Audiology" includes:

(i) Conducting health screenings;

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

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

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

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

(C) "Audiology" does not include:

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

(ii) Osseointegrated device surgery;

(iii) Cochlear implant surgery;

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

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

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

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

/s/C. Penzo