

**Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation
9960 Mayland Drive
2nd Floor-Board Room 2
Richmond, Virginia 23233**

**BOARD FOR HEARING AID SPECIALISTS AND OPTICIANS
TENTATIVE AGENDA
Wednesday, October 28, 2026, 9:30 a.m.**

Mission: Our mission is to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public by licensing qualified individuals and businesses enforcing standards of professional conduct for professions and occupations as designated by statute.

I. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Determination of Quorum
- b. Emergency Evacuation Procedures

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians Meeting Agenda, October 28, 2026

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians Minutes from August 12, 2026

IV. RESOLUTION

Debra Ogilvie Au.D

V. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD*

VI. CASES

- a. Consent Order
 - 1. 2026-01010 John Paul Schaeffer

VII. REPORTS

- a. Licensing Statistics
- b. Examination Statistics
- c. Regulatory Report
- d. Executive Director Report

VIII. REGULATORY ACTION AND BOARD GUIDANCE

- a. Hearing Aid Specialists Training and Work Permits

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Election of Vice-Chair (Hearing-Aid Specialist)
- b. Financial Statement

X. REMINDERS

- a. Conflict of Interest Act
- b. Next Board Meeting, February 3, 2027
- c. Complete Conflict of Interest Form and Travel Voucher

XI. ADJOURNMENT

- ❖ Agenda materials made available to the public do not include disciplinary case files or applications files pursuant to §54.1-108 of the Code of Virginia.
- ❖ Five minute public comment, per person, with the exception of any open disciplinary or application file.
- ❖ Persons desiring to participate in the meeting and requiring special accommodations or interpretative services should contact the Department at (804) 367-8590 at least ten days prior to the meeting so that suitable arrangements can be made for an appropriate accommodation. The Department fully complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act

2027 MEETING DATES:

February 3, 2027
April 14, 2027
August 4, 2027
October 27, 2027

PERIMETER CENTER CONFERENCE CENTER EMERGENCY EVACUATION OF BOARD AND TRAINING ROOMS

(Script to be read at the beginning of each meeting.)

PLEASE LISTEN TO THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT EXITING

In the event of a fire or other emergency requiring the evacuation of the building, alarms will sound. When the alarms sound, leave the room immediately. Follow any instructions given by Security staff

Board Room 1

Exit the room using one of the doors at the back of the room. Upon exiting the room, turn **RIGHT**. Follow the corridor to the emergency exit at the end of the hall.

Upon exiting the building, proceed straight ahead through the parking lot to the fence at the end of the lot. Wait there for further instructions.

Board Room 2

Exit the room using one of the doors at the back of the room. (Point) Upon exiting the room, turn **RIGHT**. Follow the corridor to the emergency exit at the end of the hall.

Upon exiting the building, proceed straight ahead through the parking lot to the fence at the end of the lot. Wait there for further instructions.

You may also exit the room using the side door, turn **RIGHT** out the door and make an immediate **LEFT**. Follow the corridor to the emergency exit at the end of the hall.

Upon exiting the building, proceed straight ahead through the parking lot to the fence at the end of the lot. Wait there for further instructions.

Board Rooms 3 and 4

Exit the room using one of the doors at the back of the room. Upon exiting the room, turn **RIGHT**. Follow the corridor to the emergency exit at the end of the hall.

Upon exiting the building, proceed straight ahead through the parking lot to the fence at the end of the lot. Wait there for further instructions.

Training Room 1

Exit the room using one of the doors at the back of the room. Upon exiting the room, turn **LEFT**. Follow the corridor to the emergency exit at the end of the

**PERIMETER CENTER CONFERENCE CENTER EMERGENCY EVACUATION OF
BOARD AND TRAINING ROOMS**

(Script to be read at the beginning of each meeting.)

**PLEASE LISTEN TO THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT EXITING
hall.**

Upon exiting the building, proceed straight ahead through the parking lot to the fence at the end of the lot. Wait there for further instructions.

Training Room 2

Exit the room using one of the doors at the back of the room. Upon exiting the doors, turn **LEFT**. Follow the corridor to the emergency exit at the end of the hall.

Upon exiting the building, proceed straight ahead through the parking lot to the fence at the end of the lot. Wait there for further instructions.

DRAFT AGENDA
DRAFT AGENDA
Materials contained in this agenda are proposed topics for discussion and are not to be construed as regulation of official Board position.
DRAFT AGENDA

BOARD FOR HEARING AID SPECIALISTS AND OPTICIANS MINUTES OF MEETING

The Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians met on Wednesday, August 12, 2026, at the Offices of the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, Perimeter Center, Board Room 2, 2nd Floor, 9960 Mayland Drive, Richmond, Virginia 23233.

Board members present for the meeting:

Judith Canty
LeighAnna Morris, AuD
Kenneth Kirk, Ph.D
Holly Law
Jacqueline Kowal
Desire'e Lewis-Nelson
Jennifer Mundorff, AuD
Nikisha Richards-Walker, MD
Frances Lunsford
Michael Armstrong, MD

Board members not present for the meeting:

Darla All
Fitim Xhemaili
Jeffrey Grappone
Maureen Sadak
Debra Ogilvie, AuD

DPOR staff present for all, or part of the meeting included:

Laura McClintock, Director
Stephen Kirschner, Director Licensing and Regulatory Programs
Tamika Rodriguez, Regulatory Operations Administrator
Heather Garnett, Licensing Operations Administrator
Camryn Fried, Administrative Coordinator
Joseph Haughwout, Regulatory Affairs Manager

A representative from the Office of the Attorney General was present at the meeting.

A Board for Professional and Occupational Regulation liaison was not present at the meeting.

Ms. Canty determined a quorum present and called the **CALL TO ORDER** meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

Ms. Canty read the mission statement of the Department of Professional & Occupational Regulations and announced several meeting reminders.

Tamika Rodriguez, Regulatory Operations Administrator, explained the emergency egress procedure for board room 2.

**EMERGENCY
EGRESS**

The Board took the agenda into consideration.

**APPROVAL OF
AGENDA**

Dr. Mundorff motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Dr. Morris.

The members voting 'Aye' were Ms. Canty, Dr. Morris, Dr. Kirk, Ms. Law, Ms. Kowal, Ms. Lewis-Nelson, Ms. Lunsford, Dr. Armstrong, and Dr. Mundorff.

There were no negative votes. The motion carried.

The Board took the minutes from the Board meeting on May 6, 2026, under consideration.

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES**

Dr. Mundorff motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Lewis-Nelson.

The members voting 'Aye' were Ms. Canty, Dr. Morris, Dr. Kirk, Ms. Law, Ms. Kowal, Ms. Lewis-Nelson, Ms. Lunsford, Dr. Armstrong, and Dr. Mundorff.

There were no negative votes. The motion carried.

There were no public comments.

**PUBLIC
COMMENT**

REPORTS

Ms. Garnett presented the licensing statistics that were provided in the electronic agenda and announced recent staffing changes.

**Licensing
Statistics**

Ms. Garnett presented the examination statistics that were provided in the electronic agenda.

**Examination
Statistics**

**9:40 a.m. Arrival of
Board Member Dr.
Richards-Walker**

Ms. Rodriguez presented the current regulatory actions that were provided in the electronic agenda.

Regulatory Report

Ms. Rodriguez presented the executive directors' report, which was provided in the electronic agenda.

**Executive Director
Report**

**REGULATORY
ACTION AND
BOARD
GUIDANCE**

Ms. Rodriguez informed the Board that the General Assembly approved House Bill 1254, amending the HAS regulations to implement training and work permit requirements. At the May 6, 2026 Board meeting, the Board approved staff to initiate changes and develop language for the temporary permit, transitioning to a training permit and establishing a work permit.

**Hearing Aid
Specialists
Training and Work
Permits**

Mr. Haughwout presented the proposed language for the Hearing Aid Specialist training and work permits.

Board members and staff discussed the presented language with amendments and to add a definition for direct supervision.

Dr. Morris moved to initiate a NOIRA regarding training and work permit requirements as amended, seconded by Dr. Armstrong.

The members voting 'Aye' were Ms. Canty, Dr. Morris, Dr. Kirk, Ms. Law, Ms. Kowal, Dr. Richards-Walker, Ms. Lewis-Nelson, Ms. Lunsford, Dr. Armstrong, and Dr. Mundorff.

There were no negative votes. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Rodriguez presented the Board with a notification that DPOR received from the American Board of Opticianry (ABO) and National Contact Lens Examiners, Inc (NCLE) regarding their intent to increase the exam fee starting October 1, 2026.

ABO Exam Fee Increase

Dr. Mundorff motioned to approve the exam fee increase effective October 1, 2026, seconded by Ms. Law.

The members voting 'Aye' were Ms. Canty, Dr. Morris, Dr. Kirk, Ms. Law, Ms. Kowal, Ms. Lewis-Nelson, Dr. Richards-Walker, Ms. Lunsford, Dr. Armstrong, and Dr. Mundorff.

There were no negative votes. The motion carried.

Ms. Rodriguez informed the Board the current examination contract with the American Board of Opticianry (ABO) and National Contact Lens Examiners, Inc (NCLE) is in the renewal period.

ABO-NCLE Contract Renewal

Ms. Lunsford motioned to renew the existing contract with the ABO and NCLE, seconded by Ms. Kowal.

The members voting 'Aye' were Ms. Canty, Dr. Morris, Dr. Kirk, Ms. Law, Ms. Kowal, Ms. Lewis-Nelson, Dr. Richards-Walker, Ms. Lunsford, Dr. Armstrong, and Dr. Mundorff.

There were no negative votes. The motion carried.

Mr. Kirschner informed the Board of § 54.1-118. (Qualifications for licensure, etc.; substantially equivalent military training and education). Mr. Kirschner suggested amending 18 VAC-80-20-30.4 to add six months of documented experience as an audiologist or equivalent military occupational specialty in the United States Armed Services.

Qualifications for Licensure- Military Training and Education

The Board discussed the military training for Hearing Aid Specialists and determined it not substantially equivalent military training and agreed by consensus not to add the language to the regulations.

Mr. Kirschner suggested amending 18 VAC 80-30-20.5 to expand qualifying education requirements for military veterans to include completion of a Commission on Opticianry Accreditation (COA) training program during their service; or two years of experience as an optical specialist, optician, or equivalent military occupational specialty in the United States Armed Services.

The Board discussed the military training for Opticians and agreed the military training is equivalent to current requirements.

Ms. Lewis- Nelson motioned to incorporate the proposed amendments to the provision for examination eligibility for individuals with experience in the Armed Services, as presented, and to authorize staff to proceed with filing the fast-track regulation, seconded by Ms. Lunsford.

The members voting 'Aye' were Ms. Canty, Dr. Morris, Dr. Kirk, Ms. Law, Ms. Kowal, Dr. Richards-Walker, Ms. Lewis-Nelson, Ms. Lunsford, Dr. Armstrong, and Dr. Mundorff.

There were no negative votes. The motion carried.

**Recess at 10:50
a.m.**

Mr. Kirschner presented the Board Member Professional Development presentation and informed the Board Members of their roles and responsibilities.

**BOARD MEMBER
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT**

REMINDERS

Ms. Canty reminded the Board of the next scheduled Board meeting on October 28, 2026, and Board member training on-site at DPOR for October 22 and 23, 2026.

**Next Board
Meeting**

There being no further business brought before the Board, **Adjourn**
Ms. Canty adjourned the meeting at 11:37 a.m.

Darla All, Board Chair

Laura McClintock, Board Secretary

Materials contained in this agenda are proposed topics for discussion and are not to be construed as regulation or official Board position.

DRAFT AGENDA
DRAFT AGENDA

Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians BOARD STATISTICS

Licenses and Temporary Permits Issued	1-1-2025 To 12-31-2025	1-1-2026 to 10-1-2026
Hearing Aid Specialist by Exam	43	34
Hearing Aid Specialist Doctor of Audiology Exam Waived	29	25
Hearing Aid Specialist by Endorsement	8	12
Hearing Aid Specialist Temporary Permits	49	44
Optician by Exam	22	17
Optician by Endorsement	16	14
CLE by Exam	0	2
CLE by Endorsement	1	0
Regulant Populations	12-31-2025	10-1-2026
Hearing Aid Specialist Temporary Permits	45	77
Hearing Aid Specialists	848	910
Opticians	1,699	1,717

HEARING AID SPECIALISTS

GENERAL EXAM STATISTICS REPORT - PRACTICAL

EXAM DATE	TOTAL			FIRST TIME			RE-EXAM			TOTAL EXAMINEES SCHEDULED
	EXAMS TAKEN	EXAMS PASSED	PERCENT PASSED	EXAMS TAKEN	EXAMS PASSED	PERCENT PASSED	EXAMS TAKEN	EXAMS PASSED	PERCENT PASSED	
AUG 2026	12	10	83.33%	10	09	90.00%	02	01	50.00	12

CONTENT DESCRIPTION	EXAMS TAKEN	EXAMS PASSED	PERCENT PASSED
AUDIOMETRIC	11	04	36.36%
MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR	12	11	91.66%
SPEECH TESTING	11	02	18.18%
EARMOLD IMPRESSIONS	10	10	100.00%

HEARING AID SPECIALISTS

GENERAL EXAM STATISTICS REPORT – WRITTEN

EXAM DATE	CONTENT DESCRIPTION	TOTAL		
		EXAMS TAKEN	EXAMS PASSED	PERCENT PASSED
AUG. 1, 2026 THROUGH SEPT. 30, 2026	RULES & REGULATIONS	12	06	50.00%
	ILE -THEORY	12	09	75.00%

OPTICIANS STATISTICS REPORT

COMPUTER BASE TESTING (CBT)

EXAM DATE WRITTEN-ABO	TOTAL EXAMS TAKEN	TOTAL EXAMS PASSED	TOTAL PERCENTAGE PASSED
JANUARY 2024	06	04	67.66%
FEBRUARY 2024	05	05	100.00%
MARCH 2024	05	04	80.00%
APRIL 2024	03	03	100.00%
MAY 2024	05	04	80.00%
JUNE 2024	06	05	83.33%
JULY 2024	00	00	00.00%
AUGUST 2024	03	03	100.00%
SEPTEMBER 2024	05	05	100.00%
OCTOBER 2024	05	03	60.00%
NOVEMBER 2024	02	02	100.00%
DECEMBER 2024	05	02	40.00%
WRITTEN TOTAL 2024	50	40	80.00%
PRACTICAL			
JANUARY 2024	11	06	54.54%
FEBRUARY 2024	02	01	50.00%
MARCH 2024	04	02	50.00%
APRIL 2024	02	00	00.00%
MAY 2024	06	04	66.66%
JUNE 2024	09	05	55.55%
JULY 2024	03	02	66.66%
AUGUST 2024	04	04	100.00%
SEPTEMBER 2024	08	05	62.50%
OCTOBER 2024	04	03	75.00%
NOVEMBER 2024	02	02	100.00%
DECEMBER 2024	02	02	100.00%
PRACTICAL TOTAL 2024	57	36	63.16%

EXAMS
March 24, 2025
RSTARR

OPTICIANS STATISTICS REPORT

COMPUTER BASE TESTING (CBT)

EXAM DATE WRITTEN-ABO	TOTAL EXAMS TAKEN	TOTAL EXAMS PASSED	TOTAL PERCENTAGE PASSED
JANUARY 2025	03	03	100.00%
FEBRUARY 2025	01	01	100.00%
MARCH 2025	03	03	100.00%
APRIL 2025	00	00	00.00%
MAY 2025	05	03	60.00%
JUNE 2025	08	06	75.00%
JULY 2025	02	01	50.00%
AUGUST 2025	07	06	85.71%
SEPTEMBER 2025	04	02	50.00%
OCTOBER 2025	08	03	37.50%
NOVEMBER 2025	05	05	100.00%
DECEMBER 2025	03	03	100.00%
WRITTEN TOTAL 2025	49	36	73.46%
PRACTICAL			
JANUARY 2025	04	03	75.00%
FEBRUARY 2025	04	04	100.00%
MARCH 2025	04	01	25.00%
APRIL 2025	06	04	66.66%
MAY 2025	03	03	100.00%
JUNE 2025	10	03	30.00%
JULY 2025	02	01	50.00%
AUGUST 2025	07	03	42.85%
SEPTEMBER 2025	05	03	60.00%
OCTOBER 2025	10	05	50.00%
NOVEMBER 2025	02	00	00.00%
DECEMBER 2025	10	06	60.00%
PRACTICAL TOTAL 2025	37	36	97.29%

EXAMS

January 29, 2026

RSTARR

OPTICIANS STATISTICS REPORT

COMPUTER BASE TESTING (CBT)

EXAM DATE WRITTEN-ABO	TOTAL EXAMS TAKEN	TOTAL EXAMS PASSED	TOTAL PERCENTAGE PASSED
JANUARY 2026	01	01	100.00%
FEBRUARY 2026	04	02	50.00%
MARCH 2026	06	04	66.66%
APRIL 2026	04	03	75.00%
MAY 2026	06	03	50.00%
JUNE 2026	05	04	80.00%
JULY 2026	04	03	75.00%
AUGUST 2026	07	07	100.00%
SEPTEMBER 2026	10	05	50.00%
OCTOBER 2026			
NOVEMBER 2026			
DECEMBER 2026			
WRITTEN TOTAL 2026			
PRACTICAL			
JANUARY 2026	06	04	66.66%
FEBRUARY 2026	03	02	66.66%
MARCH 2026	09	04	44.44%
APRIL 2026	04	02	50.00%
MAY 2026	03	03	100.00%
JUNE 2026	06	02	33.33%
JULY 2026	04	03	75.00%
AUGUST 2026	12	06	50.00%
SEPTEMBER 2026	07	04	57.14%
OCTOBER 2026			
NOVEMBER 2026			
DECEMBER 2026			
PRACTICAL TOTAL 2026			

EXAMS
October 5, 2026
RSTARR

Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians
Current Regulatory Actions
as of October 28, 2026

In the Governor's Office:

None

In the Secretary's Office: Proposed stage not approved by the Secretary of Labor

VAC	Stage	Subject Matter	Date Pended	Notes
18 VAC 80-30	Proposed Stage.	Opticians Fee Increase	Stage withdrawn on 07/16/2024 before the Secretary's office completed its review.	Amend the opticians regulations to adjust the application, renewal, late renewal, and reinstatement fees for optician licenses.

At Department of Planning and Budget (DPB)/OAG

None

Public Comment:

None

Completed Public Comment and awaiting final regulatory stage:

None

Approved Regulatory Actions:

None

In Preparation for Executive Review

VAC	Stage	Subject Matter	Review	Notes
18 VAC 80-30 Opticians	Fast-Track	Amendments to Opticians Reinstatement Requirements and Repeal of Reinstatement Course	In preparation stage	Amend Optician regulations to update reinstatement language and eliminate the requirement for reinstatement course approval.
18 VAC 80-20 Hearing Aid Specialists	Fast-Track	Hearing Aid Specialists License Expiration Provisions Amendment	In preparation stage	Amend the Hearing Aid Specialists regulations renewal language to expire two years from the last day of the month in which the license was issued.
18 VAC 80-20 Hearing Aid Specialists	NOIRA	HB 1254 Amendment (Training and Work Permits)	In preparation stage	Amend the Hearing Aid Specialists Regulations to align with statutory requirements by replacing temporary permits with training permits and establishing a work permit to allow eligible individuals to work while awaiting examination.
18 VAC 80-30 Opticians	Fast-Track	Opticians Military Equivalency Amendment	In preparation stage	Amend Optician regulations to expand qualifying education requirements for military veterans with

				substantially equivalent education to qualify for required licensure examinations.
--	--	--	--	--

Materials contained in this agenda are proposed topics for discussion and are not to be construed as regulation or official Board position.

DRAFT AGENDA
DRAFT AGENDA

TO: Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians
FROM: Ashley Reed, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Executive Director Update
DATE: October 7, 2026

Application Statistics

The table below outlines the number of applications received per calendar year (Jan. 1 – Dec. 31) since 2020 for HASOPT.

2026 ¹	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
920	1,100	2,875	1,442	2,706	1,318	2,677

List of opened applications by profession for January 1 – October 5, 2026.

21-HASOPT	920	920
2102-Hearing Aid Specialist Temporary Permit	57	57
2101-Hearing Aid Specialist License	236	236
1101-Optician License	627	627

Regulant Population

The table below outlines the regulant population for each profession by month for calendar year 2026.

Profession	1/1/20 26	2/1/20 26	3/1/20 26	4/1/20 26	5/1/20 26	6/1/20 26	7/1/20 26	8/1/20 26	9/1/20 26	10/1/20 26
Hearing Aid Specialists	848	851	857	861	866	876	888	892	904	910

¹ As of 10/05/26

Temporary Hearing Aid Specialist Permit Holders	45	48	49	55	58	58	69	72	74	77
Opticians	1,699	1,699	1,696	1,700	1,698	1,703	1,703	1,708	1,715	1,717

Call Center Telephone Statistics

The table below outlines the number of telephone calls received through BCHOP's call center per fiscal year (July 1 – June 30).

2027 ²	2026	2025	2024	2023 ³	2022	2021	2020
11,856	43,493	41,547	19,778	33,894	43,063	36,074	41,837

Call Center Summary September 1-30, 2026

	Average Wait Time	Average Speed of Answer	Average Abandonment Time	Average Staff	Call Amount	Call Duration	Call Overflow
BCHOP	00:00:00	00:00:00	00:00:06	1.45	933		0
BCHOP – B	00:01:38	00:01:49	00:03:18	1.45	3258		0
SUMMARY/TOTAL	00:01:38	00:01:49	00:03:17	2.9	4191	00:05:28	0

Email Statistics

The table below outlines the number of emails received through BCHOP's email addresses per calendar year (Jan 1 – Dec 31).

2026 ⁴	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
21,209	26,485	21,319	22,638	28,441	18,164	14,580	11,071

Board Case Statistics

Since 2020, the Board has adjudicated 10 cases: 2 Disciplinary and 8 Licensing.

² As of 9/30/26

³ Missing totals for May 2023 through August 2023

⁴ As of 9/30/26

Disciplinary

Cases - 2: Final Orders - 1; Consent Orders – 1

2 disciplinary cases resulted in the sanctions below:

Revocations - 1

Suspensions - 0

Probation - 0

Fines - \$33,300

Board cost - \$150

Licensing

Cases – 8

Denied – 0

Conditional approvals – 0

DRAFT AGENDA
Materials contained in this agenda are proposed topics for discussion and are not to be construed as regulation or official Board position.
DRAFT AGENDA



TO: VIRGINIA BOARD FOR HEARING AID SPECIALISTS
AND OPTICIANS
FROM: ASHLEY REED, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: HEARING AID SPECIALIST TRAINING AND WORK
PERMITS
DATE: OCTOBER 13, 2026

The General Assembly approved HB 1254 to amend the Hearing Aid Specialists regulations to implement new training and work permit requirements. At the May 6, 2026, meeting, the Board approved staff to initiate regulatory changes and develop language for the temporary permit, transitioning to a training permit and establishing a work permit.

At this time, we will continue the conversation with the board around these permits. We intend to learn how the Board would set parameters around “direct supervision” for a training permit holder and a work permit holder. Items to consider are: physical distance, methods of contact for oversight between the supervisor and permit holder (physical on site, text, phone call), etc.

Materials contained in this agenda are proposed topics for discussion and are not to be considered as regulation or official Board position.
DRAFT AGENDA

Board For Hearing Aid Optician

Monthly Cash Activity

\$ (65,258.28)

Jul 2026

Cash Below Zero

[illegible][illegible][illegible]