
HOUSE BILL 1047

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By Representatives Wicks, Orwall, Leavitt, Simmons, Kloba, Ortiz-Self, Bateman, Wylie, Gregerson, Goodman, Bronoske, Valdez, Callan, Riccelli, Frame, Rule, Davis, Bergquist, and Pollet

Prefiled 12/23/20. Read first time 01/11/21. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring coverage for hearing instruments for
2 children and adolescents; and adding a new section to chapter 48.43
3 RCW.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 48.43
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) A health carrier offering a health plan issued or renewed on
8 or after January 1, 2022, must include coverage for hearing
9 instruments, including bone conduction hearing devices, for persons
10 who are 18 years of age or younger.

11 (2) Coverage must include the hearing instrument, the initial
12 assessment, fitting, adjustment, auditory training, and ear molds as
13 necessary to maintain optimal fit.

14 (3) The maximum benefit amount required by this section is \$2,500
15 per ear with hearing loss every 36 months. This benefit is not
16 subject to the covered individual's deductible.

17 (4) A covered individual may choose a higher priced hearing
18 instrument and pay the difference between the price of the hearing
19 instrument and the benefit required under this section, without
20 financial or contractual penalty to the covered individual or to the
21 provider of the hearing instrument.

1 (5) Coverage shall be available under this section only after a
2 minor under 18 years of age has, within the preceding six months
3 received medical clearance from:

4 (a) An otolaryngologist for an initial evaluation of hearing
5 loss; or

6 (b) A licensed physician, which indicates there has not been a
7 substantial change in clinical status since the initial evaluation by
8 an otolaryngologist.

9 (6) For the purposes of this section, "hearing instrument" and
10 "hearing aid specialist" have the same meaning as defined in RCW
11 18.35.010.

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