

2SSB 5179 - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Health Care & Wellness

NOT CONSIDERED 01/05/2018

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 41.05
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) Subject to appropriation, a health plan offered to employees
6 and their covered dependents under this chapter issued or renewed on
7 or after January 1, 2018, must include coverage for hearing
8 instruments. Coverage must include no more than one new hearing
9 instrument every five years and services and supplies such as the
10 initial assessment, fitting, adjustment, and auditory training.

11 (2) The hearing instrument must be recommended by a licensed
12 audiologist or hearing aid specialist and dispensed by a licensed
13 audiologist or hearing aid specialist.

14 (3) For the purposes of this section, "hearing instrument" and
15 "hearing aid specialist" have the same meaning as defined in RCW
16 18.35.010.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.09
18 RCW to read as follows:

19 (1) The medical assistance coverage offered under this chapter
20 issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2018, must include coverage
21 for hearing instruments when medically necessary. Coverage must
22 include no more than one new hearing instrument every five years and
23 services and supplies such as the initial assessment, fitting,
24 adjustment, and auditory training. Coverage must include a new
25 hearing instrument sooner than every five years if alterations to the
26 existing hearing instrument cannot meet the needs of the patient.

27 (2) The hearing instrument must be recommended by a licensed
28 audiologist or hearing aid specialist and dispensed by a licensed
29 audiologist or hearing aid specialist.

1 (3) For purposes of this section, "hearing instrument" and
2 "hearing aid specialist" have the same meaning as defined in RCW
3 18.35.010.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** If specific funding for the purposes of
5 section 2 of this act, referencing section 2 of this act by bill or
6 chapter number and section number, is not provided by June 30, 2017,
7 in the omnibus appropriations act, section 2 of this act is null and
8 void."

9 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Specifies that coverage for hearing instruments for
Public Employees' Benefit Board enrollees and Medicaid enrollees is
limited to no more than one hearing instrument every five years.
Provides an exception to the five year limitation for Medicaid
enrollees whose existing hearing instrument cannot be altered to meet
their needs.

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