
HOUSE BILL 1811

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Representatives Kilduff, Harris, Orwall, Eslick, Callan, Jinkins, Appleton, Caldier, Frame, Doglio, Goodman, Pollet, Morgan, and Tarleton

Read first time 01/31/19. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

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

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

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

6 (1) A health carrier offering a health plan issued or renewed on
7 or after January 1, 2020, must include coverage for hearing
8 instruments for persons who are eighteen years of age or younger.
9 Coverage must include a new hearing instrument every five years, and
10 services and supplies such as the initial assessment, fitting,
11 adjustment, and auditory training.

12 (2) The hearing instrument must be recommended by a licensed
13 audiologist, hearing aid specialist, or a licensed physician or
14 osteopathic physician who specializes in otolaryngology and dispensed
15 by a licensed audiologist, hearing aid specialist, or a licensed
16 physician or osteopathic physician who specializes in otolaryngology.

17 (3) For the purposes of this section, "hearing instrument" and
18 "hearing aid specialist" have the same meaning as defined in RCW
19 18.35.010.

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