
SENATE BILL 5277

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Senators Hargrove and Regala

Read first time 01/19/2005. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to coverage for hearing aids; adding a new section
2 to chapter 41.05 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 48.20 RCW; adding
3 a new section to chapter 48.21 RCW; adding a new section to chapter
4 48.44 RCW; and adding a new section to chapter 48.46 RCW.

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

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

8 All state-purchased health care that provides coverage for
9 prostheses shall include coverage for hearing aids, provided that such
10 services are delivered upon the recommendation of the patient's
11 physician or advanced registered nurse practitioner as authorized by
12 the nursing care quality assurance commission under chapter 18.79 RCW
13 or physician assistant under chapter 18.71A RCW.

14 This section shall not be construed to prevent the application of
15 standard health plan provisions applicable to other benefits such as
16 deductible or copayment provisions. This section does not limit the
17 authority of the state health care authority to negotiate rates and
18 contract with specific providers for the delivery of prostheses. This

1 section does not apply to medicare supplement policies or supplemental
2 contracts covering a specified disease or other limited benefits.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 48.20 RCW
4 to read as follows:

5 An insurer that offers to any individual a health benefit plan that
6 provides coverage for prostheses shall include coverage for hearing
7 aids, provided that such services are delivered upon the recommendation
8 of the patient's physician or advanced registered nurse practitioner as
9 authorized by the nursing care quality assurance commission under
10 chapter 18.79 RCW or physician assistant under chapter 18.71A RCW.

11 This section shall not be construed to prevent the application of
12 standard health plan provisions applicable to other benefits such as
13 deductible or copayment provisions. This section does not limit the
14 authority of the state health care authority to negotiate rates and
15 contract with specific providers for the delivery of prostheses. This
16 section does not apply to medicare supplement policies or supplemental
17 contracts covering a specified disease or other limited benefits.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 48.21 RCW
19 to read as follows:

20 A group insurance contract or blanket disability insurance contract
21 that provides coverage for prostheses shall include coverage for
22 hearing aids, provided that such services are delivered upon the
23 recommendation of the patient's physician or advanced registered nurse
24 practitioner as authorized by the nursing care quality assurance
25 commission under chapter 18.79 RCW or physician assistant under chapter
26 18.71A RCW.

27 This section shall not be construed to prevent the application of
28 standard health plan provisions applicable to other benefits such as
29 deductible or copayment provisions. This section does not limit the
30 authority of the state health care authority to negotiate rates and
31 contract with specific providers for the delivery of prostheses. This
32 section does not apply to medicare supplement policies or supplemental
33 contracts covering a specified disease or other limited benefits.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 48.44 RCW
35 to read as follows:

1 A health service contractor that provides coverage for prostheses
2 shall include coverage for hearing aids, provided that such services
3 are delivered upon the recommendation of the patient's physician or
4 advanced registered nurse practitioner as authorized by the nursing
5 care quality assurance commission under chapter 18.79 RCW or physician
6 assistant under chapter 18.71A RCW.

7 This section shall not be construed to prevent the application of
8 standard health plan provisions applicable to other benefits such as
9 deductible or copayment provisions. This section does not limit the
10 authority of the state health care authority to negotiate rates and
11 contract with specific providers for the delivery of prostheses. This
12 section does not apply to medicare supplement policies or supplemental
13 contracts covering a specified disease or other limited benefits.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 48.46 RCW
15 to read as follows:

16 A health maintenance organization that provides coverage for
17 prostheses shall include coverage for hearing aids, provided that such
18 services are delivered upon the recommendation of the patient's
19 physician or advanced registered nurse practitioner as authorized by
20 the nursing care quality assurance commission under chapter 18.79 RCW
21 or physician assistant under chapter 18.71A RCW.

22 This section shall not be construed to prevent the application of
23 standard health plan provisions applicable to other benefits such as
24 deductible or copayment provisions. This section does not limit the
25 authority of the state health care authority to negotiate rates and
26 contract with specific providers for the delivery of prostheses. This
27 section does not apply to medicare supplement policies or supplemental
28 contracts covering a specified disease or other limited benefits.

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