

2SSB 5179 - S AMD 339
By Senator Bailey

ADOPTED 01/19/2018

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, 2019, must include coverage for hearing
8 instruments. Coverage must include a new hearing instrument every
9 five years and services and supplies such as the initial assessment,
10 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, 2019, must include coverage
21 for hearing instruments when medically necessary. Coverage must
22 include a new hearing instrument every five years, a new hearing
23 instrument when alterations to the existing hearing instrument cannot
24 meet the needs of the patient, and services and supplies such as the
25 initial assessment, fitting, adjustment, and auditory training.

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

29 (3) For purposes of this section, "hearing instrument" and
30 "hearing aid specialist" have the same meaning as defined in RCW
31 18.35.010.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** If specific funding for the purposes of
2 section 2 of this act, referencing section 2 of this act by bill or
3 chapter number and section number, is not provided by June 30, 2018,
4 in the omnibus appropriations act, section 2 of this act is null and
5 void."

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6 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "programs;" strike the
7 remainder of the title and insert "adding a new section to chapter
8 41.05 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 74.09 RCW; and creating a
9 new section."

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