

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

ENGROSSED SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5179

Chapter 159, Laws of 2018

65th Legislature
2018 Regular Session

HEARING INSTRUMENTS--PUBLIC EMPLOYEE HEALTH PLAN AND MEDICAID
COVERAGE

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 7, 2018

Passed by the Senate March 5, 2018
Yeas 49 Nays 0

CYRUS HABIB

President of the Senate

Passed by the House February 28, 2018
Yeas 80 Nays 18

FRANK CHOPP

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Approved March 21, 2018 12:18 PM

JAY INSLEE

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Brad Hendrickson, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **ENGROSSED SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5179** as passed by Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

BRAD HENDRICKSON

Secretary

FILED

March 23, 2018

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

ENGROSSED SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5179

AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2018 Regular Session

State of Washington **65th Legislature** **2017 Regular Session**

By Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Bailey, Keiser, Palumbo, Hasegawa, and Conway)

READ FIRST TIME 02/24/17.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring coverage for hearing instruments
2 under public employee and medicaid programs; adding a new section to
3 chapter 41.05 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 74.09 RCW; and
4 creating a new section.

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
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) Subject to appropriation, a health plan offered to employees
9 and their covered dependents under this chapter issued or renewed on
10 or after January 1, 2019, must include coverage for hearing
11 instruments. Coverage must include a new hearing instrument every
12 five years and services and supplies such as the initial assessment,
13 fitting, adjustment, and auditory training.

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

19 (3) For the purposes of this section, "hearing instrument" and
20 "hearing aid specialist" have the same meaning as defined in RCW
21 18.35.010.

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

3 (1) The medical assistance coverage offered under this chapter
4 issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2019, must include coverage
5 for hearing instruments when medically necessary. Coverage must
6 include a new hearing instrument every five years, a new hearing
7 instrument when alterations to the existing hearing instrument cannot
8 meet the needs of the patient, and services and supplies such as the
9 initial assessment, fitting, adjustment, and auditory training.

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

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

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

Passed by the Senate March 5, 2018.
Passed by the House February 28, 2018.
Approved by the Governor March 21, 2018.
Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 23, 2018.

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