
HOUSE BILL 1854

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Representatives Wicks, Orwall, Davis, Goodman, Gregerson, Macri, Shewmake, Simmons, Slatter, Bergquist, Valdez, Wylie, Fitzgibbon, Pollet, Ortiz-Self, Stonier, Riccelli, and Kloba

Prefiled 01/07/22. Read first time 01/10/22. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring coverage for hearing instruments;
2 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, 2023, must include coverage for hearing
8 instruments, including bone conduction hearing devices.

9 (2) Coverage must include the hearing instrument, the initial
10 assessment, fitting, adjustment, auditory training, and ear molds as
11 necessary to maintain optimal fit.

12 (3) The maximum benefit amount required by this section is \$2,500
13 per ear with hearing loss every 36 months. This benefit is not
14 subject to the covered individual's deductible.

15 (4) A covered individual may choose a higher priced hearing
16 instrument and pay the difference between the price of the hearing
17 instrument and the benefit required under this section, without
18 financial or contractual penalty to the covered individual or to the
19 provider of the hearing instrument.

1 (5) For the purposes of this section, "hearing instrument" has
2 the same meaning as defined in RCW 18.35.010.

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