

As Passed by the House

135th General Assembly

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H. B. No. 152

Representatives Weinstein, Young, B.

Cosponsors: Representatives Abdullahi, Baker, Blackshear, Brennan, Brent, Brewer, Brown, Dean, Forhan, Galonski, Grim, Humphrey, Isaacsohn, Jarrells, Lightbody, Liston, McNally, Miller, A., Miller, J., Miranda, Mohamed, Rogers, Somani, Sweeney, Upchurch, Young, T., Carruthers, Click, Cutrona, Dell'Aquila, Denson, Dobos, Ghanbari, Jones, Mathews, Oelslager, Patton, Robb Blasdel, Russo, Schmidt, Seitz, Skindell, Thomas, C., Troy, White



A BILL

To enact section 3902.63 of the Revised Code to
require health plan issuers to cover hearing
aids and related services for persons twenty-one
years of age and younger and to name this act
Madeline's Law.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 3902.63 of the Revised Code be
enacted to read as follows:

Sec. 3902.63. (A) As used in this section:

(1) "Hearing aid" means any wearable instrument or device
designed or offered for the purpose of aiding or compensating
for impaired human hearing, including all attachments,
accessories, and parts thereof, except batteries and cords, that
is dispensed by a licensed audiologist, a licensed hearing aid
dealer or fitter, or an otolaryngologist.

(2) "Otolaryngologist" means a licensed physician who 15
practices otolaryngology. 16

(3) "Related services" means services necessary to assess, 17
select, and appropriately adjust or fit a hearing aid to ensure 18
optimal performance. 19

(B) On and after the effective date of this section, and 20
notwithstanding section 3901.71 of the Revised Code, a health 21
benefit plan shall provide coverage for the full cost of both of 22
the following: 23

(1) One hearing aid per hearing-impaired ear up to two 24
thousand five hundred dollars every forty-eight months for a 25
covered person twenty-one years of age or younger who is 26
verified as being deaf or hearing impaired by a licensed 27
audiologist or by an otolaryngologist or other licensed 28
physician; 29

(2) All related services prescribed by an otolaryngologist 30
or recommended by a licensed audiologist and dispensed by a 31
licensed audiologist, a licensed hearing aid dealer or fitter, 32
or an otolaryngologist. 33

(C) A covered person may choose a higher priced hearing 34
aid and may pay the difference in cost above the two-thousand- 35
five-hundred-dollar required coverage required by this section 36
without any financial or contractual penalty to the covered 37
person or to the provider of the hearing aid. 38

(D) A health plan issuer is not required to pay a claim 39
for the cost of a hearing aid as required by division (B) of 40
this section if, less than forty-eight months prior to the date 41
of the claim, the covered person received the coverage required 42
under division (B) of this section from any health benefit plan. 43

(E) (1) A health benefit plan shall only provide coverage 44
for hearing aids that are considered medically appropriate to 45
meet the needs of the covered person, according to professional 46
standards established by the state speech and hearing 47
professionals board. 48

(2) A health benefit plan shall not exclude coverage for 49
any hearing aid that would be considered medically appropriate 50
to meet the needs of the covered person, according to 51
professional standards established by the state speech and 52
hearing professionals board. 53

(3) The state speech and hearing professionals board shall 54
adopt professional standards concerning hearing aids as needed 55
to evaluate the compliance of a health benefit plan with this 56
section. 57

Section 2. This act shall be known as Madeline's Law. 58