

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1413

S.P. 552

In Senate, April 1, 2025

An Act to Amend Laws Governing Hearing Aid Dealers and Health Insurance to Allow an Exception to Certain Hearing Examination Requirements

Reference to the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D M Grant", is positioned above the printed name of the Secretary of the Senate.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BENNETT of Oxford.
Cosponsored by Representative ZAGER of Portland and
Senators: BAILEY of York, BALDACCI of Penobscot, CYRWAY of Kennebec, President
DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, HAGGAN of Penobscot, MOORE of Washington,
Representatives: GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, HENDERSON of Rumford.

1 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

2 Sec. 1. 24-A MRSA §2762, sub-§5 is enacted to read:

3 **5. Hearing examinations for replacement hearing aids; exception required.**

4 Coverage for a replacement hearing aid under an individual health policy or contract
5 pursuant to this section may not be denied or delayed for the sole reason that the individual
6 covered under the policy or contract is unable to attend a hearing examination prior to the
7 replacement because the individual is too ill or infirm to safely attend the examination.

8 Sec. 2. 24-A MRSA §2847-O, sub-§5 is enacted to read:

9 **5. Hearing examinations for replacement hearing aids; exception required.**

10 Coverage for a replacement hearing aid under a group health insurance policy, contract or
11 certificate pursuant to this section may not be denied or delayed for the sole reason that the
12 individual covered under the policy, contract or certificate is unable to attend a hearing
13 examination prior to the replacement because the individual is too ill or infirm to safely
14 attend the examination.

15 Sec. 3. 24-A MRSA §4255, sub-§5 is enacted to read:

16 **5. Hearing examinations for replacement hearing aids; exception required.**

17 Coverage for a replacement hearing aid under a health maintenance organization individual
18 and group health insurance policy, contract or certificate pursuant to this section may not
19 be denied or delayed for the sole reason that the individual covered under the policy,
20 contract or certificate is unable to attend a hearing examination prior to the replacement
21 because the individual is too ill or infirm to safely attend the examination.

22 Sec. 4. 32 MRSA §17305, sub-§7 is enacted to read:

23 **7. Exceptions from hearing examination requirements.** Notwithstanding any
24 provision of this section to the contrary, a dealer-licensee may sell and furnish a hearing
25 aid to a prospective purchaser without evidence of a recent ear or hearing examination if
26 the prospective purchaser:

27 A. Typically wears or is currently using a hearing aid;

28 B. Is seeking to replace a recently lost, stolen, broken or failing hearing aid with a
29 hearing aid of the same specifications; and

30 C. Is unable to attend a hearing examination because the prospective purchaser is too
31 ill or infirm to do so safely.

32 **SUMMARY**

33 This bill changes provisions of law governing insurance coverage for hearing aids and
34 hearing aid dealing and fitting practices to allow an exception to a requirement that an
35 individual attend an ear or hearing examination prior to obtaining a replacement hearing
36 aid if that individual is too ill or infirm to safely attend the examination.