

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 544

H. P. 427

House of Representatives, February 14, 1979

Referred to the Committee on Business Legislation. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Soulas of Bangor.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

**AN ACT to Lower Business Fees and to Provide for Continuing Education under
the Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters' Statute.**

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

Sec. 1. 32 MRSA § 1658-A, sub-§ 2, as repealed and replaced by PL 1975, c. 463, § 3, is amended to read:

2. License for business organization. Any corporation, partnership, trust, association or other like organization engaged in the business of selling or offering for sale hearing aids at retail in the State shall apply to the department for a license to engage in said business. No business entity shall so engage in the business of selling or offering for sale hearing aids without a license to do so. The department shall issue a license signed by the Director of Health, upon payment by the business entity of a fee of ~~\$100~~ \$10 and upon filing of a sworn statement from a person with authority from the business entity. Such sworn statement shall list the names and addresses of all hearing aid dealers and fitters directly or indirectly employed by said entity and shall certify that the entity employs only hearing aid dealers and fitters who are duly licensed by the State. The license shall be effective for 24 months following the date of issuance. Each such business engaged in the fitting and sale of hearing aids shall biennially submit to the department an application for a renewal of its license accompanied by a fee of ~~\$50~~ \$10. A 30-day grace period shall be allowed after the date of expiration, during

which time licenses may be renewed on payment of ~~\$100~~ \$25 to the department. After expiration of the grace period, the department may renew such certificates upon the payment of ~~\$200~~ \$50 to the department. The license required by this chapter shall be conspicuously posted in the licensee's office or place of business. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, the department may, whenever it deems necessary, extend existing licenses so that an equal number expire each month to allow for the equal distribution of relicensure throughout the year.

Sec. 2. 32 MRSA § 1658-M, as repealed and replaced by PL 1975, c. 463, § 3, is amended by adding a new paragraph at the end to read:

No biennial renewal certificate may be issued by the board during 1980 and any following year until such time as the applicant submits proof satisfactory to the board that during the 2 years preceding his application for renewal, he has participated in not fewer than 16 hours of courses of continuing education in fitting and dealing in hearing aids offered by an institution approved by the board. In the initial 2 years of the application of this paragraph, the board may reduce the number of hours of participation required based upon the number of days this paragraph is in effect during those initial 2 years. The board may make exceptions from the operation of this paragraph in emergency or hardship cases.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill amends the hearing aid dealers and fitters' statute by:

1. Lowering business organization fees, which are much too high in relation to other fees under the statute; and
2. Providing for a continuing education requirement of 16 hours every 2 years for renewal of a fitters and dealers' license.