

SENATE FILE NO. SF0057

Wyoming adult hearing aid program.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Furphy, Baldwin, Cooper, Gierau  
and Nethercott and Representative(s)  
Chestek, Conrad, Provenza and Sherwood

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to public health and safety; creating a  
2 hearing aid program for hearing impaired adults as  
3 specified; requiring rulemaking; providing appropriations;  
4 and providing for effective dates.

5

6 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

7

8 **Section 1.** W.S. 35-25-601 through 35-25-603 are  
9 created to read:

10

11

ARTICLE 6

12

WYOMING ADULT HEARING AID PROGRAM

13

14

**35-25-601. Wyoming adult hearing aid program.**

15

1 There is created a hearing aid program for adults with  
2 hearing impairment.

3

4 **35-25-602. Definitions.**

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6 (a) As used in this article:

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8 (i) "Department" means the department of health;

9

10 (ii) "Eligible adult" means a Wyoming resident  
11 not less than eighteen (18) years of age who has been  
12 diagnosed by a physician or audiologist with a profound  
13 hearing impairment that requires hearing aids and who has a  
14 monthly modified adjusted gross family income at or below  
15 two hundred percent (200%) of the federal poverty level;

16

17 (iii) "Federal poverty level" means the federal  
18 poverty guideline updated annually in the federal register  
19 by the United States department of health and human  
20 services under the authority of section 673(2) of the  
21 Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981;

22

1           (iv) "Hearing aid" means as defined by W.S.  
2 33-35-102(a)(ii).

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4           **35-25-603. Program eligibility; benefits.**

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6           (a) Subject to available state funding, the  
7 department shall provide hearing aids for eligible adults.  
8 Eligibility under this section shall be determined by the  
9 department or its designee. To be determined eligible to  
10 receive hearing aids under this section, a person shall not  
11 be eligible to receive hearing aids through private  
12 insurance, Medicaid, Medicare or any other available  
13 third-party payor. Recipients shall not receive more than  
14 one (1) set of hearing aids under this article in any five  
15 (5) year period.

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17           (b) An adult eligible for services under this article  
18 shall receive:

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20           (i) Up to one (1) hearing aid per ear at a cost  
21 of not more than the rate paid for hearing aids under the  
22 Wyoming Medical Assistance and Services Act and including  
23 hearing aid insurance for loss or damage;

1

2           (ii) A hearing aid fitting at a cost of not more  
3 than the rate paid under the Wyoming Medical Assistance and  
4 Services Act; and

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6           (iii) An initial set of ear molds at a cost of  
7 not more than the rate paid under the Wyoming Medical  
8 Assistance and Services Act.

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10         **Section 2.** The department of health shall promulgate  
11 rules and regulations necessary to implement this act.

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13         **Section 3.**

14

15         (a) The department of health is authorized one (1)  
16 at-will employee contract position for the purpose of  
17 implementing and administering this act. There is  
18 appropriated nine thousand dollars (\$9,000.00) from the  
19 general fund to the department of health for the salary of  
20 the position authorized under this subsection. This  
21 appropriation shall be for the period beginning with the  
22 effective date of this subsection and ending June 30, 2026  
23 and shall only be expended for the additional position

1 authorized under this section. This appropriation shall not  
2 be transferred or expended for any other purpose and any  
3 unexpended, unobligated funds remaining from this  
4 appropriation shall revert as provided by law on June 30,  
5 2026.

6  
7 (b) There is appropriated ninety thousand dollars  
8 (\$90,000.00) from the general fund to the department of  
9 health for purposes of providing hearing aids, hearing aid  
10 molds and fittings to eligible adults under this act. This  
11 appropriation shall be for the period beginning with the  
12 effective date of this act and ending June 30, 2026. This  
13 appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any  
14 other purpose and any unexpended, unobligated funds  
15 remaining from this appropriation shall revert as provided  
16 by law on June 30, 2026. It is the intent of the  
17 legislature that this appropriation be included in the  
18 standard budget of the department of health for the  
19 immediately succeeding fiscal biennium.

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1           **Section 4.**

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3           (a) Except as provided by subsection (b) of this  
4 section, this act is effective July 1, 2024.

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6           (b) Sections 2 and 4 of this act are effective  
7 immediately upon completion of all acts necessary for a  
8 bill to become law as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of  
9 the Wyoming Constitution.

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(END)