

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:

7

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 hearing
13 impairment that requires hearing aids and who has a monthly
14 modified adjusted gross family income at or below two
15 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 for less than or equal to five hundred
14 dollars (\$500.00). Recipients shall not receive more than
15 one (1) set of hearing aids under this article in any five
16 (5) year period.

17

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

20

21 (i) Up to one (1) hearing aid per ear at a cost
22 of not more than the rate paid for hearing aids under the

1 Wyoming Medical Assistance and Services Act and including
2 hearing aid insurance for loss or damage;

3

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

7

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

11

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

14

15 **Section 3.**

16

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

1 effective date of this subsection and ending June 30, 2026
2 and shall only be expended for the additional position
3 authorized under this section. This appropriation shall not
4 be transferred or expended for any other purpose and any
5 unexpended, unobligated funds remaining from this
6 appropriation shall revert as provided by law on June 30,
7 2026.

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

22

1 **Section 4.**

2

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

5

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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11

(END)