

ORIGINAL SENATE
FILE NO. SF0057

ENROLLED ACT NO. 42, SENATE

SIXTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING
2024 BUDGET SESSION

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

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

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

ARTICLE 6
WYOMING ADULT HEARING AID PROGRAM

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

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

35-25-602. Definitions.

(a) As used in this article:

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

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

(iii) "Federal poverty level" means the federal poverty guideline updated annually in the federal register by the United States department of health and human

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services under the authority of section 673(2) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981;

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

35-25-603. Program eligibility; benefits.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Section 3.

(a) The department of health is authorized one (1) at-will employee contract position for the purpose of implementing and administering this act. There is appropriated nine thousand dollars (\$9,000.00) from the general fund to the department of health for the salary of the position authorized under this subsection. This appropriation shall be for the period beginning with the effective date of this subsection and ending June 30, 2026 and shall only be expended for the additional position authorized under this section. This appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any other purpose and any unexpended, unobligated funds remaining from this appropriation shall revert as provided by law on June 30, 2026.

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

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Section 4.

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

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

(END)

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Governor

TIME APPROVED: _____

DATE APPROVED: _____

I hereby certify that this act originated in the Senate.

Chief Clerk