

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 87th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2009

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1930

4
5 By: Representative Adcock
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 AN ACT TO REQUIRE HEARING AIDS TO BE COVERED BY
10 HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
11

Subtitle

12
13 TO REQUIRE HEARING AIDS TO BE COVERED BY
14 HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS.
15

16
17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
18

19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 23, Chapter 79 is amended to add an
20 additional subchapter to read as follows:

21 23-79-1301. Definitions.

22 As used in this subchapter:

23 (1)(A) "Health benefit plan" means an individual, blanket, or
24 group plan, policy, or contract for health care services issued or delivered
25 by a health care insurer in this state.

26 (B) "Health benefit plan" includes:

27 (i) Indemnity and managed care plans; and

28 (ii) Governmental plans as defined in 29 U.S.C. §
29 1002(32), as it existed on January 1, 2009.

30 (C) "Health benefit plan" does not include:

31 (i) Accidental injury insurance plans;

32 (ii) Dental insurance plans;

33 (iii) Vision insurance plans;

34 (iv) Specified disease insurance plans;

35 (v) Disability income plans;

36 (vi) Credit insurance plans;



1 (vii) Insurance coverage issued as a supplement to
2 liability insurance;

3 (viii) Medical payments under automobile or
4 homeowners' insurance plans;

5 (ix) Health benefit plans provided under Arkansas
6 Constitution, Article 5, Section 32, the Workers' Compensation Law, § 11-9-
7 101 et seq., and the Public Employee Workers' Compensation Act, § 21-5-601 et
8 seq.;

9 (x) Insurance under which benefits are payable with
10 or without regard to fault and the benefits that are statutorily required to
11 be contained in any liability policy or equivalent self-insurance; and

12 (xi) Plans that provide only indemnity for hospital
13 confinement; and

14 (2) "Hearing aid" means an instrument or device, including
15 repair and replacement parts, that:

16 (A) Is designed and offered for the purpose of aiding
17 persons with or compensating for impaired hearing;

18 (B) Is worn in or on the body; and

19 (C) Is generally not useful to a person in the absence of a
20 hearing impairment.

21
22 23-79-1302. Coverage for hearing aids required.

23 (a) A health benefit plan that is offered, issued, or renewed in this
24 state shall provide coverage for a hearing aid that is prescribed by a
25 qualified physician or audiologist beginning on or after January 1, 2010.

26 (b) The coverage for hearing aids required under this section:

27 (1) Is not subject to policy deductibles; and

28 (2) Shall not exceed the actual cost of the hearing instrument.

29
30 23-79-1303. Rules.

31 The State Insurance Department shall develop and promulgate rules for
32 the implementation and administration of this subchapter.