

ARKANSAS SENATE
85th General Assembly - Regular Session, 2005
Amendment Form

Subtitle of Senate Bill No. 998

"AN ACT CONCERNING COVERAGE AND REIMBURSEMENT FOR AUDIOLOGY
SERVICES."

Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill No. 998.

Amend Senate Bill No. 998 as originally introduced:

Delete Section 1 of the bill and substitute the following:

"SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 23-79-114(g), concerning speech language pathologists and audiologists, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

(5) The failure to comply with any provision in this subsection (g) shall be deemed an unfair trade practice under the Trade Practices Act, § 23-66-201 et seq., and may be punished by fines and penalties established under §§ 23-60-108, 23-66-210, and 23-66-215.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 23-79-130 is amended to read as follows:

23-79-130. ~~Group policies—Offer of coverage for impairment~~
Impairment of speech or hearing.

(a) Every accident and health insurer, hospital or medical service corporation, or health maintenance organization which offers for sale, issue, or delivery in this state, any group insurance policy, contract, plan, or agreement for health and accident or medical service or indemnity which covers the insured and members of the insured's family, transacting accident and health insurance or providing health coverage in the State of Arkansas that delivers or issues for delivery or renews, extends, or modifies accident and medical coverage on an expense-incurred service or prepaid basis shall offer provide coverage for the necessary care and treatment of loss or impairment of speech or hearing, subject to the same durational limits, dollar limits, deductibles, and coinsurance factors as other covered services in the policies or contracts.

(b) ~~The offer of benefits under subsection (a) of this section shall be in writing by offering a rider to the group administrator. This section does not apply to disability income, specified disease, hospital indemnity, or accident-only policies.~~

(c) ~~Nothing in this section shall prohibit the insurance company or not for profit health service corporation from including any coverage for less or impairment of speech, language, or hearing as standard coverage in their policies or contracts.~~



~~(d)~~(c) The phrase "loss or impairment of speech or hearing" shall include those communicative disorders generally treated by a speech pathologist or audiologist licensed by the Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and which fall within the scope of his or her area of certification.

~~(e)~~(d) The additional coverage provided for in this section shall not apply to hearing instruments or devices."

AND

Appropriately renumber the subsequent Section of the bill

The Amendment was read the first time, rules suspended and read the second time and _____

By: Senator B. Johnson
JDF/CDS - 03-21-2005 11:26
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Secretary