

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass and Be Placed on the Consent Calendar
Vote:	6 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Cowan, Gelser, Gilliam, Kotek, Maurer, Tomei
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Olson
Prepared By:	Andy Smith, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows licensed hearing aid specialists to certify individuals as eligible to receive assistive communication devices or adaptive equipment through the Telecommunication Devices Access Program (TDAP).

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Current professions which can certify eligibility
- Occupational definition of a hearing aid specialist
- Number of residents served by TDAP
- Access and affordability issues

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The Telecommunication Devices Access Program (TDAP) purchases and loans (at no cost to eligible recipients) special telecommunication devices to Oregonians who are deaf, hearing- and/or speech-impaired, or who have other physical disabilities that would prevent them from using a telephone. Devices distributed under the program include TTY (text telephone), visual signal, large visual display, telebraille, remote-controlled speaker phone and voice-activated cellular phone.

Under current statute, individuals must be certified as deaf, severely hearing impaired, severely speech impaired or deaf-blind by a licensed physician, audiologist, speech-language pathologist or vocational rehabilitation counselor. In Oregon, anyone who sells, leases, or rents hearing aids in conjunction with the evaluation or measurement of human hearing must be licensed as a hearing aid specialist by the Oregon Health Licensing Agency.

SB 40 adds hearing specialists to the list of professionals who are able to certify eligibility for TDAP.