

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	George G., Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Verger, Morrisette
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Ilana Weinbaum, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	1/24, 1/29

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:

- Role of licensing hearing aid specialists
- Number of hearing aid specialists in Oregon
- Additional costs associated with audiologist visits
- Number of people benefiting from TDAP

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. The devices are loaned to eligible recipients at no cost. 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 would add hearing aid specialists to the list of professionals who are able to certify eligibility for TDAP.