

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Fiscal statement issued

---

**Action:** Do Pass and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

**Vote:** 6 - 0 - 0

**Yeas:** Atkinson, Burdick, Edwards, Girod, Starr, Beyer

**Nays:** 0

**Exc.:** 0

**Prepared By:** Richard Berger, Administrator

**Meeting Dates:** 2/10

---

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Eliminates requirement in the eligibility criteria for the Telecommunication Devices Access Program (TDAP) that individuals be ‘severely’ hard of hearing or ‘severely’ speech impaired and replaces the requirement to specify that individual be hard of hearing or speech impaired. Allows nurse practitioners and licensed physicians to certify all disabilities qualifying a person for participation in the TDAP. Allows hearing aid specialists to certify an individual as deaf or hard of hearing for the purpose of qualifying that person for participation in the TDAP. Allows a rehabilitation instructor for persons who are blind to certify an individual as blind for the purpose of qualifying that person for participation in the TDAP.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Need to serve rural Oregonians who have less access to medical specialists
- Need to serve all those hard of hearing and speech impaired, not just those individuals ‘severely’ hard of hearing and speech impaired

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** The Telecommunication Devices Access Program (TDAP) is administered through the Public Utility Commission. TDAP loans adaptive telephone equipment at no cost and with no income restrictions to eligible Oregonians who have impairment in at least one of the following areas: hearing, vision, speech, mobility, or cognitive function.

2/15/2011 8:48:00 AM

*This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.*