

HB 2392 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Health Care

Action Date: 04/17/17

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 9-0-0-0

Yeas: 9 - Alonso Leon, Buehler, Greenlick, Hack, Hayden, Kennemer, Keny-Guyer, Malstrom, Nosse

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Modifies requirements for health benefit plan to cover expenses of hearing loss treatments.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Review of current hearing and hearing aid services for children
- Barriers for families with children with hearing issues
- Impact on the education system due to children not treated for hearing loss
- Personal stories of families with children who have hearing loss
- Concerns relating to mandating insurance coverage

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Requires health benefit plan to provide payment, coverage, or reimbursement for ear molds, replacement ear molds, hearing assistive technology system for an enrollee who is younger than 19 and other hearing aid benefits. Specifies that Department of Consumer and Business Services will determine network adequacy.

BACKGROUND:

Currently, hearing services and technology are limited in scope for families and children with hearing loss. Current health insurance coverage includes: initial and ongoing hearing evaluations, essential fitting and verification procedures, essential supplies, essential equipment, cochlear implants and replacement hearing aids when necessary.