

SB 558 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

Prepared By: Daniel Dietz, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/8, 3/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Specifies that a license issued by the Health Licensing Office is not required to sell over-the-counter air-conduction (acoustic) hearing aids. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Specifies that "dealing in hearing aids" also includes ordering the use of hearing aids.

BACKGROUND:

Federal regulations define over-the counter hearing aids as air-conduction (acoustic) hearing aids that amplify and direct sound and do not require implantation or surgery (21 C.F.R. 800.30). For over-the-counter hearing aids, federal regulations do not require intervention of a licensed person, including for transactions by mail or online.

Senate Bill 558 removes the requirement that a person who sells over-the-counter hearing aids, including by mail, must be licensed by the Health Licensing Office.