

**HOUSE . . . . . No.**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

**John W. Scibak**

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act to provide coverage for hearing aids.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

John W. Scibak

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

2nd Hampshire

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 2239 OF .]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

—————  
**In the Year Two Thousand and Nine**  
—————

**AN ACT TO PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR HEARING AIDS..**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Chapter 118E of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2004 Official Edition, is hereby amended  
2 by inserting after section 9C the following section:-

3

4 Section 9D.(a) Definitions. As used in the section:

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6 (i) "Hearing Aid" shall mean any wearable, non-disposable instrument or device designed to aid or  
7 compensate for impaired or diminished human hearing; and any part, attachments, or accessories  
8 including earmolds but excluding batteries. In the event that any part of this definition conflicts with the  
9 definition of a hearing aid in section 196 of chapter 112 of the General Laws, this definition will take  
10 precedent for the purposes of this section.

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12 (ii) "Related services" shall mean those services necessary to assess, select, and appropriately adjust or  
13 fit the hearing aid to ensure optimal performance.

14

15 (b) A health benefit plan shall provide coverage, subject to all applicable co-payments, coinsurance,  
16 deductibles, and out-of-pocket limits, for the full cost of one hearing aid per hearing impaired ear, every

17 36 months for insured individuals, and all related services which shall be prescribed by an audiologist or  
18 a hearing instrument specialist as defined in section 196 of chapter 12 of the General Laws, and  
19 dispensed by an audiologist or a hearing instrument specialist as defined in said section.

20

21 (c) A health benefit plan shall not be required to pay a claim filed by its insured for payment of the cost  
22 of a hearing aid under the coverage required by subsection (2) of this section if less than 3 years prior to  
23 the date of the claim its insured filed a claim for payment of cost of a hearing aid under the required  
24 coverage and the claim was paid by any health benefit plan.

25