

6423

I N S E N A T E

January 22, 2014

Introduced by Sen. GIPSON -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Insurance

AN ACT to amend the insurance law, the public health law and the social services law, in relation to requiring coverage for the purchase of medically necessary hearing aids for children under the age of sixteen years

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as
2 "Isabella's law".
3 S 2. Subsection (i) of section 3216 of the insurance law is amended by
4 adding a new paragraph 30 to read as follows:
5 (30) (A) (I) EVERY HEALTH INSURANCE POLICY ISSUED OR DELIVERED IN THIS
6 STATE SHALL PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR MEDICALLY NECESSARY HEARING AIDS
7 PURCHASED FROM A HEARING AID DISPENSER REGISTERED UNDER ARTICLE THIRTY-
8 SEVEN-A OF THE GENERAL BUSINESS LAW OR AN AUDIOLOGIST LICENSED UNDER
9 ARTICLE ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-NINE OF THE EDUCATION LAW FOR AN INSURED
10 PERSON WHO IS LESS THAN SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE, SUCH INSURED PERSON SHALL
11 BE ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT OF UP TO ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS
12 FOR EACH HEARING AID EVERY TWO YEARS FOR EXPENSES RELATED TO THE
13 PURCHASE OF UP TO TWO HEARING AIDS. WHEN IT IS DEMONSTRATED THAT (1)
14 THE INSURED CHILD'S HEARING HAS CHANGED SIGNIFICANTLY WITHIN A TWO YEAR
15 PERIOD AND (2) THE EXISTING HEARING AID WILL NO LONGER CORRECT THE
16 CHILD'S HEARING LOSS, SUCH INSURED PERSON SHALL BE ENTITLED TO
17 REIMBURSEMENT FOR ADDITIONAL HEARING AID EXPENSES.
18 (II) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE INSURED PERSON SHALL BE
19 ENTITLED TO SPEND MORE THAN ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS ON EACH
20 HEARING AID, BUT SHALL ONLY BE ALLOWED REIMBURSEMENT UP TO THE AMOUNT
21 PROVIDED IN CLAUSE (I) OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH.
22 (B)(I) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS PARAGRAPH "HEARING AID" SHALL MEAN ANY
23 WEARABLE INSTRUMENT OR DEVICES DESIGNED FOR HEARING AND ANY PARTS,
24 ATTACHMENTS OR ACCESSORIES BUT EXCLUDING BATTERIES AND CORDS OR ACCESSO-
25 RIES THERETO.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *ITALICS* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [] is old law to be omitted.

LBD11708-02-4

(II) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, SERVICES FOR RECASING, RESHELL-
ING AND ACQUIRING NEW MOLDS SHALL BE INCLUDED AS PART OF THE POLICIES.

(C) COVERAGE PROVIDED PURSUANT TO THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL NOT BE SUBJECT
TO DEDUCTIBLES, COINSURANCE OR COPAYMENTS.

S 3. Section 3221 of the insurance law is amended by adding a new
subsection (t) to read as follows:

(T) (1) (A) EVERY GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE POLICY ISSUED OR DELIVERED IN
THIS STATE SHALL PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR HEARING AIDS PURCHASED FROM A
HEARING AID DISPENSER REGISTERED UNDER ARTICLE THIRTY-SEVEN-A OF THE
GENERAL BUSINESS LAW OR AN AUDIOLOGIST LICENSED UNDER ARTICLE ONE
HUNDRED FIFTY-NINE OF THE EDUCATION LAW FOR AN INSURED PERSON WHO IS
LESS THAN SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE, SUCH INSURED PERSON SHALL BE ENTITLED TO
REIMBURSEMENT OF UP TO ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS FOR EACH HEAR-
ING AID EVERY TWO YEARS FOR EXPENSES RELATED TO THE PURCHASE OF UP TO
TWO HEARING AIDS. WHEN IT IS DEMONSTRATED THAT (I) THE INSURED CHILD'S
HEARING HAS CHANGED SIGNIFICANTLY WITHIN A TWO YEAR PERIOD AND (II) THE
EXISTING HEARING AID WILL NO LONGER CORRECT THE CHILD'S HEARING LOSS,
SUCH INSURED PERSON SHALL BE ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR ADDITIONAL
HEARING AID EXPENSES.

(B) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE INSURED PERSON SHALL BE
ENTITLED TO SPEND MORE THAN ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS ON EACH
HEARING AID, BUT SHALL ONLY BE ALLOWED REIMBURSEMENT UP TO THE AMOUNT
PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (A) OF THIS PARAGRAPH.

(2)(A) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBSECTION, "HEARING AID" SHALL MEAN
ANY WEARABLE INSTRUMENT OR DEVICES DESIGNED FOR HEARING AND ANY PARTS,
ATTACHMENTS OR ACCESSORIES BUT EXCLUDING BATTERIES AND CORDS OR ACCESSO-
RIES THERETO.

(B) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, SERVICES FOR RECASING, RESHELL-
ING AND ACQUIRING NEW MOLDS SHALL BE INCLUDED AS PART OF THE POLICIES.

(3) COVERAGE PROVIDED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION SHALL NOT BE SUBJECT
TO DEDUCTIBLES, COINSURANCE OR COPAYMENTS.

S 4. Section 4303 of the insurance law is amended by adding a new
subsection (oo) to read as follows:

(OO) (1) (A) EVERY CONTRACT ISSUED OR DELIVERED IN THIS STATE BY A
HEALTH SERVICE CORPORATION OR HOSPITAL SERVICE CORPORATION SHALL PROVIDE
COVERAGE FOR HEARING AIDS PURCHASED FROM A HEARING AID DISPENSER REGIS-
TERED UNDER ARTICLE THIRTY-SEVEN-A OF THE GENERAL BUSINESS LAW OR AN
AUDIOLOGIST LICENSED UNDER ARTICLE ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-NINE OF THE EDUCA-
TION LAW FOR AN INSURED PERSON WHO IS LESS THAN SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE,
SUCH INSURED PERSON SHALL BE ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT OF UP TO ONE
THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS FOR EACH HEARING AID EVERY TWO YEARS FOR
EXPENSES RELATED TO THE PURCHASE OF UP TO TWO HEARING AIDS. WHEN IT IS
DEMONSTRATED THAT (I) THE INSURED CHILD'S HEARING HAS CHANGED SIGNIF-
ICANTLY WITHIN A TWO YEAR PERIOD AND (II) THE EXISTING HEARING AID WILL
NO LONGER CORRECT THE CHILD'S HEARING LOSS, SUCH INSURED PERSON SHALL BE
ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR ADDITIONAL HEARING AID EXPENSES.

(B) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE INSURED PERSON SHALL BE
ENTITLED TO SPEND MORE THAN ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS ON EACH
HEARING AID, BUT SHALL ONLY BE ALLOWED REIMBURSEMENT UP TO THE AMOUNT
PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (A) OF THIS PARAGRAPH.

(2)(A) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBSECTION, "HEARING AID" SHALL MEAN
ANY WEARABLE INSTRUMENT OR DEVICES DESIGNED FOR HEARING AND ANY PARTS,
ATTACHMENTS OR ACCESSORIES BUT EXCLUDING BATTERIES AND CORDS OR ACCESSO-
RIES THERETO.

(B) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, SERVICES FOR RECASING, RESHELL-
ING AND ACQUIRING NEW MOLDS SHALL BE INCLUDED AS PART OF THE POLICIES.

1 (3) COVERAGE PROVIDED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION SHALL NOT BE SUBJECT
2 TO DEDUCTIBLES, COINSURANCE OR COPAYMENTS.

3 S 5. Subdivision 6 of section 2511 of the public health law is amended
4 by adding a new paragraph (c-1) to read as follows:

5 (C-1) STANDARDS REQUIRING COVERAGE FOR MEDICALLY NECESSARY HEARING
6 AIDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (T) OF SECTION THREE THOUSAND TWO
7 HUNDRED TWENTY-ONE OF THE INSURANCE LAW;

8 S 6. Subdivision 2 of section 365-a of the social services law is
9 amended by adding a new paragraph (bb) to read as follows:

10 (BB) THE PURCHASE OF MEDICALLY NECESSARY HEARING AIDS FROM A HEARING
11 AID DISPENSER REGISTERED UNDER ARTICLE THIRTY-SEVEN-A OF THE GENERAL
12 BUSINESS LAW OR AN AUDIOLOGIST LICENSED UNDER ARTICLE ONE HUNDRED
13 FIFTY-NINE OF THE EDUCATION LAW FOR ANY CHILD WHO IS LESS THAN SIXTEEN
14 YEARS OF AGE. SUCH ASSISTANCE SHALL BE LIMITED TO ONE THOUSAND FIVE
15 HUNDRED DOLLARS FOR EACH HEARING AID EVERY TWO YEARS FOR UP TO TWO HEAR-
16 ING AIDS.

17 S 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015 and sections two, three
18 and four of this act shall apply to all policies issued, modified or
19 renewed on and after such date.