

**BOARD FOR HEARING AID SPECIALISTS
MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Board for Hearing Aid Specialists met on Friday October 31, 2008, at the Offices of the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, Perimeter Center, Board Room 3, 2nd Floor, 9960 Mayland Drive, Richmond, Virginia 23233. The following members were present:

Thomas M. Frank, Chair
Harry W. Kessler, Vice-Chair
Teresa Robinson
Olivia L. Kearney
Kathy J. Harvey
Dr. L. Frederick Lassen

The following members were absent:

Matthew J. Myrick

DPOR staff present for all or part of the meeting included:

Jay W. DeBoer, Director
Mark N. Courtney, Deputy Director for Licensing & Regulations
William H. Ferguson, II, Executive Director
Zelda Williams, Board Administrator
Tamika Watson, Administrative Assistant
Earlyne Perkins, Legal Analyst

Representative from the Office of the Attorney General was not present for the meeting.

Mr. Frank, Chair, determined a quorum was present and called the **Call to Order** meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

Upon a motion by Ms. Harvey and seconded by Mr. Kessler the Board **Approval of Agenda** voted to adopt the agenda as amended by adding Introduction of New Board Member, Legislation, and Examination.

The members voting 'yes' were Mr. Frank, Ms. Harvey, Ms. Kearney, Mr. Kessler, Dr. Lassen, and Ms. Robinson. There were no negative votes. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. L. Frederick Lassen, newly appointed board member, was **New Board Member** introduced to the Board. Dr. Lassen was appointed by Governor Kaine to serve an unexpired term beginning May 29, 2008, and ending June 30, 2009, to succeed Dr. Richard Linde.

Mr. Frank asked if there was any public comment. **Public Comment**

Via Voicemail message an anonymous caller left a message regarding the concern about regulations not mentioning anything about sanitation of Hearing Aid Dispensers.

Upon a motion by Ms. Robinson and seconded by Ms. Kearney, the Board voted to approve the minutes as written of the:

July 16, 2008 Board for Hearing Aid Specialists Board Meeting

The members voting 'yes' were Mr. Frank, Ms. Harvey, Ms. Kearney, Mr. Kessler, Dr. Lassen, and Ms. Robinson. There were no negative votes. The motion passed unanimously.

Upon a motion by Ms. Robinson and seconded by Ms. Kearney, the Board voted to repeal existing Public Participation Guidelines and adopt the Model Public Participation Guidelines as final Board for Hearing Aid Specialists Public Participation Guidelines.

The members voting 'yes' were Mr. Frank, Ms. Harvey, Ms. Kearney, Mr. Kessler, Dr. Lassen, and Ms. Robinson. There were no negative votes. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Robinson left the meeting

In the matter of File Number 2008-01836, Board v. Israel, Becky, the Board reviewed the record which consisted of the Consent Order. Becky Israel did not appear at the meeting in person, by counsel, or by any other qualified representative.

By signing the Consent Order, Becky Israel acknowledges an understanding of the charges and hereby admits to the violation of the Count 1, 2, and 3 as outlined in the Report of Findings. Becky Israel consents to the following term(s):

Count 1:	18 VAC 80-20-250	\$ 300.00
Count 2:	18 VAC 80-20-270.3	\$2,500.00
Count 3:	18 VAC 80-20-270.1.h	\$ 0.00
SUB-TOTAL (MONETARY PENALTIES)		\$2,800.00
BOARD COSTS		\$ 150.00
TOTAL		\$2,950.00

Upon a motion by Ms. Kearny and seconded by Ms. Harvey the Board voted to accept the Consent Order. The members voting 'yes' were Mr. Frank, Ms. Harvey, Ms. Kearney, Mr. Kessler, and Dr. Lassen.

**Approval of
Minutes:
July 16, 2008 Board
for Hearing Aid
Specialist Board
Meeting,**

Regulations

Ms. Robinson

**File Number 2008-
01836, Israel, Becky**

There were no negative votes. The motion passed unanimously.

As the board representative Ms. Robinson was not present, did not participate in the discussion, and did not vote on this matter.

Ms. Robinson returned to the meeting and Ms. Harvey left the meeting.

**Ms. Robinson and
Ms. Harvey**

In the matter of File Number 2008-04357, Board v. McMillian, Stephanie, the Board reviewed the record which consisted of the Consent Order. Stephanie McMillian did not appear at the meeting in person, by counsel, or by any other qualified representative.

**File Number 2008-
04357, McMillian,
Stephanie**

By signing the Consent Order, Stephanie McMillian acknowledges an understanding of the charges and hereby admits to the violation of the Count 1 as outlined in the Report of Findings. Stephanie McMillian consents to the following term(s):

Count 1:	18 VAC 80-20-270.1.b	\$ 500.00
		<hr/>
	SUB-TOTAL (MONETARY PENALTIES)	\$ 500.00
	BOARD COSTS	\$ 150.00
	TOTAL	\$ 650.00

Upon a motion by Ms. Kearny and seconded by Dr. Lassen the Board voted to accept the Consent Order.

The members voting 'yes' were Mr. Frank, Ms. Kearney, Mr. Kessler, Dr. Lassen and Ms. Robinson. There were no negative votes. The motion passed unanimously.

As the board representative Ms. Harvey was not present, did not participate in the discussion, and did not vote on this matter.

Pertaining to HB 237 (2008), relating to health insurance coverage for hearing aids for children, the Board voted that they supported the concept of the bill to provide health insurance coverage for hearing aids for children but had concern that the affect of provisions set forth in section D would not be in the best interest of providing health insurance coverage for hearing aids for children.

Legislation

House Bill 237 (2008)

§ 38.2-3418.15. Coverage for hearing aids and related services. of the Code of Virginia

D. Coverage shall be available under this section only for services and equipment prescribed by a certified audiologist licensed to prescribe

such services or equipment under Chapter 26 (§ 54.1-2600 et seq.) of Title 54.1.

RE: 18 VAC 80-20-80. Examinations. Board for Hearing Aid Specialists Regulations

Examinations

A. Applicants for licensure shall pass a two part examination, of which Part I is a written examination and Part II is a practical examination.

1. The applicant shall pass each section of the written and practical examination administered by the board. Candidates failing one or more sections of the written or practical examination will be required to retake only those sections failed.
2. Any candidate failing to achieve a passing score on all sections in three successive scheduled examinations must reapply as a new applicant for licensure and repeat all sections of the written and practical examination.
3. If the temporary permit holder fails to achieve a passing score on any section of the examination in three successive scheduled examinations, the temporary permit shall expire upon receipt of the examination failure letter resulting from the third attempt.

The Board for Hearing Aid Specialists clarified that successive scheduled examinations means successive examinations scheduled by the Board not successive examinations scheduled by the candidate.

For informational purposes, the Board reviewed the Board for Audiology and Speech Language Pathology October 9, 2008 general Board meeting unapproved minutes.

**Board of Audiology and Speech-
Language Pathology**

The Board noted two areas for consideration during regulatory review, continuing education and closed cases.

**Other Board
Business**

DPOR Study

The Board was informed that the DPOR Board was conducting a study Sign Language Interpreters and Translitterators and the study's 60-day public comment period ends on December 12, 2008.

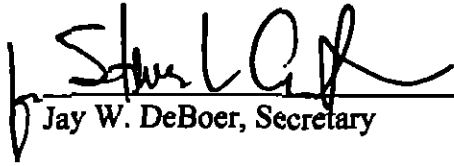
Next Board meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2009

There being no further items for discussion, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Adjourn



Thomas M. Frank, Chair



Jay W. DeBoer, Secretary

**STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CONFLICT OF INTEREST ACT**

1. Name: Thomas Frank
2. Title: Board Member – Board for Hearing Aid Specialists
3. Agency: Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation
4. Transaction: Board Meeting on October 31, 2008
5. Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction: none

6. I declare that:

(a) I am a member of the following business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction: Hearing aid specialist

(b) I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively and in the public interest.

RECEIVED
NOV 10 2008
BCHOP.

Signature: _____

Thomas M. Frank

Date: _____

10-31-08

**STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CONFLICT OF INTEREST ACT**

1. Name: Harry W. Kessler, III
2. Title: Board Member – Board for Hearing Aid Specialists
3. Agency: Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation
4. Transaction: Board Meeting on October 31, 2008
5. Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction: None

6. I declare that: _____

(a) I am a member of the following business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction: _____

(b) I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively and in the public interest.

Signature: _____

Harry W. Kessler, III

Date: Oct. 31, 2008

**STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CONFLICT OF INTEREST ACT**

1. Name: Teresa M. Robinson
2. Title: Board Member – Board for Hearing Aid Specialists
3. Agency: Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation
4. Transaction: Board Meeting on October 31, 2008
5. Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction: none

6. I declare that:

(a) I am a member of the following business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction: Hearing Aid Dispenser

(b) I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively and in the public interest.

Signature: Teresa Robinson Date: 10/31/08

**STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CONFLICT OF INTEREST ACT**

- 1. Name: Olivia Little Kearney

- 2. Title: Board Member - Board for Hearing Aid Specialists

- 3. Agency: Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation

- 4. Transaction: Board Meeting on October 31, 2008

- 5. Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction: _____

6. I declare that:

(a) I am a member of the following business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction: _____

(b) I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively and in the public interest.

Signature: Olivia L. Kearney Date: 10-31-08

**STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CONFLICT OF INTEREST ACT**

- 1. Name: Kathy Harvey

 - 2. Title: Board Member – Board for Hearing Aid Specialists

 - 3. Agency: Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation

 - 4. Transaction: Board Meeting on October 31, 2008

 - 5. Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction: NONE
-

6. I declare that:

(a) I am a member of the following business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction: HEARING AID SPECIALISTS

(b) I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively and in the public interest.

Signature: Kathy J. Harvey Date: 10-31-08

**STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CONFLICT OF INTEREST ACT**

- 1. Name: Dr. L. Frederick Lassen

- 2. Title: Board Member- Board for Hearing Aid Specialists

- 3. Agency: Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation

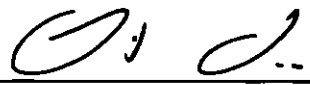
- 4. Transaction: Board Meeting on October 31, 2008

- 5. Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction: None

6. I declare that:

(a) I am a member of the following business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction: _____

(b) I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively and in the public interest.

Signature:  Date: 10/31/2008

Board Procedure Guide to Disciplinary, Application and Recovery Fund Cases – Page 2

Disciplinary – Consent Orders			
Pre-IFF Consent Order	Agree Disagree	Ratify Consent Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Re-offer consent order with different terms. If the respondent is not present, the motion must include a deadline for respondent and the action to be taken if the offer is not accepted. ♦ Reject the consent order and close the file with a finding of no violation. ♦ Refer for an IFF – this should occur only in exceptional cases where a decision cannot be made without additional information.
Post-IFF Consent Order	Agree Disagree	Ratify Consent Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Re-offer consent order with different terms. If the respondent is not present, the motion must include a deadline for respondent and the action to be taken if the offer is not accepted. ♦ Reject the consent order and close the file with a finding of no violation. ♦ Reject the consent order and consider entry of a final order (requires deferral to the next meeting in order to obtain the full record).
Applications – IFF Summary and Recommendation			
Summary recommending approval of application	Agree Disagree	Adopt recommendation approving application. Reject the recommendation and deny the application, stating the reasons. Amend the recommendation to approve the application subject to the terms of an Agreement for Licensure.	
Summary recommending denial of application	Agree Disagree	Adopt the recommendation denying the application. Reject the recommendation and approve the application, stating the reasons. Amend the recommendation to approve the application subject to the terms of an Agreement for Licensure.	
Recovery Fund – IFF Summary and Recommendation			
Summary recommending approval of claim	Agree Disagree	Adopt recommendation approving payment of the claim. Reject recommendation and deny payment of the claim, stating reasons.	
Summary recommending denial of claim	Agree Disagree	Adopt recommendation denying payment of the claim. Reject recommendation and approve payment of the claim, stating reasons.	

Board Procedure Guide to Disciplinary, Application and Recovery Fund Cases – Page 1

Participants - Appointments

- Each participant may speak for 5 minutes. A participant is anyone who participated in the IFF.
- If both a participant and his counsel are present, each may speak five minutes.
- No new facts may be introduced.
- Multiple cases with the same respondent – The Board may hear the cases together or separately and may permit the participants to combine their time to speak on all cases or to use 5 minutes per case.

Disciplinary – IFF Summary and Recommendation

General Information

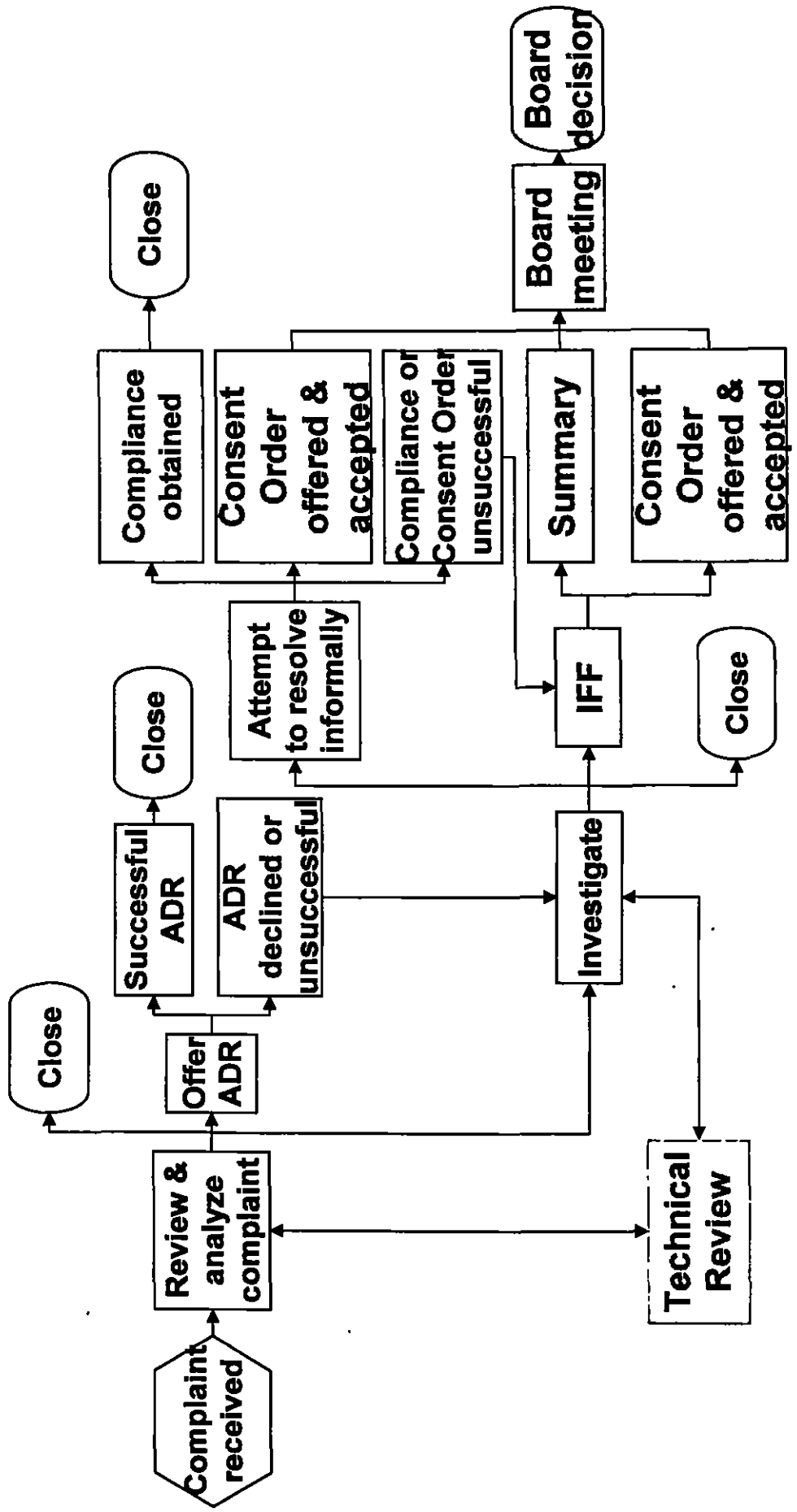
The case decision must be made in two motions:
1st motion - determine whether there is a violation.
 If the respondent has had prior violations, the legal assistant will provide the Board with this information after the violation decision has been made and before the sanction decision is made. Therefore, the Board will not be tainted with information regarding prior violations when it makes a decision as to whether a violation has occurred.
2nd motion – determine the appropriate sanction.
 The appropriate time to consider prior violations is when a sanction is being imposed

Multiple violations in one case or multiple cases – The Board may make all violation decisions first and then make all sanction decisions or may consider each violation separately and consider a sanction after the vote on each violation.

Summary recommending violation(s)	Violation	Agree	Adopt the recommendation (regarding the violation). Proceed with decision on
		Disagree	Reject the recommendation, stating reasons, and close file with a finding of no violation sanction.
	Sanction	Agree	Adopt recommendation (regarding the sanction)
		Disagree	Amend the recommendation, stating the reasons.
Summary recommending a finding of no violation	Violation	Agree	Adopt the recommendation to close the file with a finding of no violation.
		Disagree	Reject recommendation and find a violation; stating reasons. Proceed with decision on
	Sanction		Pass a motion regarding sanctions, stating the reasons.

- over-

Disciplinary CID PROCESS



2008 SESSION

INTRODUCED

081080472

HOUSE BILL NO. 237

Offered January 9, 2008

Prefiled December 28, 2007

A BILL to amend and reenact § 38.2-4319 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 38.2-3418.15, relating to health insurance coverage for hearing aids for children.

Patrons—Cosgrove; Senator: Blevins

Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 38.2-4319 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 38.2-3418.15 as follows:

§ 38.2-3418.15. Coverage for hearing aids and related services.

A. Notwithstanding the provisions of § 38.2-3419, each insurer proposing to issue individual or group accident and sickness insurance policies providing hospital, medical and surgical, or major medical coverage on an expense-incurred basis; each corporation providing individual or group accident and sickness subscription contracts; and each health maintenance organization providing a health care plan for health care services shall provide coverage for hearing aids and related services for children from birth to age 18 under any policy, contract, or plan delivered, issued for delivery or renewed in the Commonwealth on and after July 1, 2008. The coverage shall include payment of the cost of one hearing aid per hearing-impaired ear every 24 months, up to \$1,500 per hearing aid. The insured may choose a higher-priced hearing aid and may pay the difference in cost above \$1,500, with no financial or contractual penalty to the insured or to the provider of the hearing aid.

B. No insurer, corporation, or health maintenance organization shall impose upon any person receiving benefits pursuant to this section any copayment or fee, and no condition may be applied to the person that is not equally imposed upon all individuals in the same benefit category.

C. For the purposes of this section:

"Hearing aid" means any wearable, nondisposable instrument or device designed or offered to aid or compensate for impaired human hearing and any parts, attachments, or accessories, including earmolds, but excluding batteries and cords. Hearing aids are not to be considered durable medical equipment.

"Related services" includes earmolds, initial batteries, and other necessary equipment, maintenance, and adaptation training.

D. Coverage shall be available under this section only for services and equipment prescribed by a certified audiologist licensed to prescribe such services or equipment under Chapter 26 (§ 54.1-2600 et seq.) of Title 54.1.

E. The provisions of this section shall not apply to short-term travel, accident-only, limited or specified disease policies, or contracts designed for issuance to persons eligible for coverage under Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, known as Medicare, or any other similar coverage under state or federal governmental plans or to short-term nonrenewable policies of not more than six months' duration.

§ 38.2-4319. Statutory construction and relationship to other laws.

A. No provisions of this title except this chapter and, insofar as they are not inconsistent with this chapter, §§ 38.2-100, 38.2-136, 38.2-200, 38.2-203, 38.2-209 through 38.2-213, 38.2-216, 38.2-218 through 38.2-225, 38.2-229, 38.2-232, 38.2-305, 38.2-316, 38.2-322, 38.2-400, 38.2-402 through 38.2-413, 38.2-500 through 38.2-515, 38.2-600 through 38.2-620, Chapter 9 (§ 38.2-900 et seq.), §§ 38.2-1016.1 through 38.2-1023, 38.2-1057, Article 2 (§ 38.2-1306.2 et seq.), § 38.2-1306.1, § 38.2-1315.1, Articles 3.1 (§ 38.2-1316.1 et seq.), 4 (§ 38.2-1317 et seq.) and 5 (§ 38.2-1322 et seq.) of Chapter 13, Articles 1 (§ 38.2-1400 et seq.) and 2 (§ 38.2-1412 et seq.) of Chapter 14, §§ 38.2-1800 through 38.2-1836, 38.2-3401, 38.2-3405, 38.2-3405.1, 38.2-3407.2 through 38.2-3407.6:1, 38.2-3407.9 through 38.2-3407.16, 38.2-3411.2, 38.2-3411.3, 38.2-3411.4, 38.2-3412.1:01, 38.2-3414.1, 38.2-3418.1 through 38.2-3418.14, 38.2-3418.15, 38.2-3419.1, 38.2-3430.1 through 38.2-3437, 38.2-3500, subdivision 13 of § 38.2-3503, subdivision 8 of § 38.2-3504, §§ 38.2-3514.1, 38.2-3514.2, 38.2-3522.1 through 38.2-3523.4, 38.2-3525, 38.2-3540.1, 38.2-3542, 38.2-3543.2, Article 5 (§ 38.2-3551 et seq.) of Chapter 35, Chapter 52 (§ 38.2-5200 et seq.), Chapter 55 (§ 38.2-5500 et seq.), Chapter 58 (§ 38.2-5800 et seq.) and § 38.2-5903 of this title shall be applicable to any health maintenance organization granted a license under this chapter. This chapter shall not apply to an insurer or health services plan licensed and regulated in conformance with the insurance laws or Chapter 42 (§ 38.2-4200 et seq.) of this title except

INTRODUCED

HB237

59 with respect to the activities of its health maintenance organization.

60 B. For plans administered by the Department of Medical Assistance Services that provide benefits
61 pursuant to Title XIX or Title XXI of the Social Security Act, as amended, no provisions of this title
62 except this chapter and, insofar as they are not inconsistent with this chapter, §§ 38.2-100, 38.2-136,
63 38.2-200, 38.2-203, 38.2-209 through 38.2-213, 38.2-216, 38.2-218 through 38.2-225, 38.2-229,
64 38.2-232, 38.2-322, 38.2-400, 38.2-402 through 38.2-413, 38.2-500 through 38.2-515, 38.2-600 through
65 38.2-620, Chapter 9 (§ 38.2-900 et seq.), §§ 38.2-1016.1 through 38.2-1023, 38.2-1057, § 38.2-1306.1,
66 Article 2 (§ 38.2-1306.2 et seq.), § 38.2-1315.1, Articles 3.1 (§ 38.2-1316.1 et seq.), 4 (§ 38.2-1317 et
67 seq.) and 5 (§ 38.2-1322 et seq.) of Chapter 13, Articles 1 (§ 38.2-1400 et seq.) and 2 (§ 38.2-1412 et
68 seq.) of Chapter 14, §§ 38.2-3401, 38.2-3405, 38.2-3407.2 through 38.2-3407.5, 38.2-3407.6 and
69 38.2-3407.6:1, 38.2-3407.9, 38.2-3407.9:01, and 38.2-3407.9:02, subdivisions 1, 2, and 3 of subsection F
70 of § 38.2-3407.10, 38.2-3407.11, 38.2-3407.11:3, 38.2-3407.13, 38.2-3407.13:1, and 38.2-3407.14,
71 38.2-3411.2, 38.2-3418.1, 38.2-3418.2, 38.2-3419.1, 38.2-3430.1 through 38.2-3437, 38.2-3500,
72 subdivision 13 of § 38.2-3503, subdivision 8 of § 38.2-3504, §§ 38.2-3514.1, 38.2-3514.2, 38.2-3522.1
73 through 38.2-3523.4, 38.2-3525, 38.2-3540.1, 38.2-3542, 38.2-3543.2, Chapter 52 (§ 38.2-5200 et seq.),
74 Chapter 55 (§ 38.2-5500 et seq.), Chapter 58 (§ 38.2-5800 et seq.) and § 38.2-5903 shall be applicable to
75 any health maintenance organization granted a license under this chapter. This chapter shall not apply to
76 an insurer or health services plan licensed and regulated in conformance with the insurance laws or
77 Chapter 42 (§ 38.2-4200 et seq.) of this title except with respect to the activities of its health
78 maintenance organization.

79 C. Solicitation of enrollees by a licensed health maintenance organization or by its representatives
80 shall not be construed to violate any provisions of law relating to solicitation or advertising by health
81 professionals.

82 D. A licensed health maintenance organization shall not be deemed to be engaged in the unlawful
83 practice of medicine. All health care providers associated with a health maintenance organization shall
84 be subject to all provisions of law.

85 E. Notwithstanding the definition of an eligible employee as set forth in § 38.2-3431, a health
86 maintenance organization providing health care plans pursuant to § 38.2-3431 shall not be required to
87 offer coverage to or accept applications from an employee who does not reside within the health
88 maintenance organization's service area.

89 F. For purposes of applying this section, "insurer" when used in a section cited in subsections A and
90 B of this section shall be construed to mean and include "health maintenance organizations" unless the
91 section cited clearly applies to health maintenance organizations without such construction.

Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission



**Evaluation of House Bill 237:
Mandated Coverage of Hearing Aids for Children**

Briefing for the Special Advisory Commission on
Mandated Health Insurance Benefits

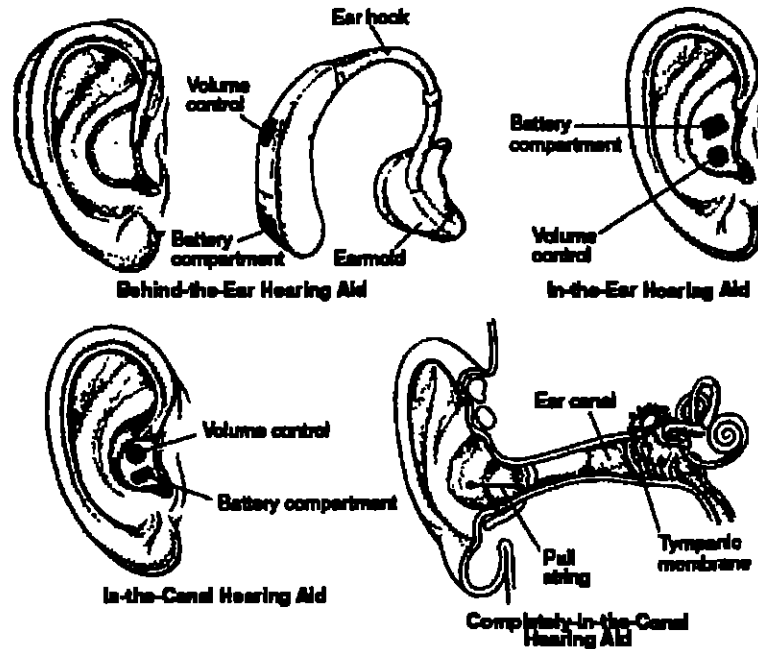
October 27, 2008



**HB 237 Would Cover Hearing Aids for Children up to
\$1,500 Every 24 Months**

- 16 to 21 in every 1,000 children have hearing loss
- Newborn hearing screening mandated in Virginia
- Hearing aids used by almost 60% of children with hearing loss
- Equipment must be regularly replaced
 - Hearing aids: 3-5 years
 - Batteries: 1-4 weeks
 - Earmolds (for BTE aids): As ear grows

Digital Behind-the-Ear Aid Most Common for Children



Source: Merck & Co, Online Medical Library .



In This Presentation

- Medical Efficacy and Effectiveness
- Social Impact
- Financial Impact
- Balancing the Medical, Social, and Financial Considerations



Use of Hearing Aids to Improve Hearing Well Established

- No controlled clinical trials
 - Withholding treatment for research purposes unethical
- Research has not studied the impact of hearing aids alone
- Early identification and intervention positively impact communication of children with hearing loss
 - Vocabulary, speech & language
 - Non-verbal interactions

Few Insurers Offer Coverage, and Families May Face Financial Hardship

- Only 5% of Virginia insurers provide coverage
- Hearing aids cost from \$500 to \$3,500, average \$1,400 per aid
- Ongoing costs may be significant (estimated \$870 annually)
- State programs exist, but not all children qualify

Utilization and Premiums Would Likely Increase, But Lifetime Costs May Be Reduced

- Premium impact estimated to be comparable to other mandates
 - Reducing frequency of hearing aid replacement would lessen impact
- Lifetime costs associated with speech therapy, special education, and lost productivity may be reduced



Concern That HB 237 Does Not Cover Hearing Aids Prescribed by Some Providers

- Only covers aids prescribed by licensed audiologists (consistent with newborn screening protocol)
 - But otolaryngologists or other licensed physicians may prescribe hearing aids (allowed under State and federal law and regulations)
 - May limit access to hearing aids in certain regions



Coverage of Hearing Aids for Children Consistent With the Role of Insurance and Appears Needed

- Utilization and health insurance costs may increase
- Overall social and healthcare costs may decrease due to positive impacts on individual's ability to communicate
- Insurers cover other procedures to enhance amplification, such as cochlear implants

JLARC Staff for Mandated Benefit Evaluations

Hal Greer, Division Chief

Kimberly Sarte, Team Leader

Jenny Breidenbaugh, Senior Associate Legislative Analyst

This evaluation is available on our website

<http://jlarc.state.va.us> (804) 786-1258

**BOARD FOR HEARING AID SPECIALISTS
EXAMINATION SPECIFICATION SHEET**

Part I – Written Examination

International Licensing Examination (ILE)

2 & ½ HRS.

Hearing Aid Specialist Rules and Regulations

1 HOUR

Part II – Practical Examination

Section I – Audiometric Testing & Section II – Speech Testing (**combined**)

40 MINUTES

Section III – Earmold Impressions

15 MINUTES

Section IV – Maintenance and Repair

20 MINUTES

It is the responsibility of the candidate to make sure all sections of the examination are completed. The Board will not be held liable for any missed sections of the examination.

18 VAC 80-20-80. Examinations.

C. Applicants for licensure shall pass a two part examination, of which Part I is a written examination and Part II is a practical examination.

1. The applicant shall pass each section of the written and practical examination administered by the board. Candidates failing one or more sections of the written or practical examination will be required to retake only those sections failed.

NOTICE

Beginning with the October 2008 examination, an applicant shall have three attempts to pass the written and practical examination within two years of the initial test date. After three attempts within the two years, the applicant shall file a new application and pay the required fee.