

Amendment No. 1

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION

ADOPTED	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
ADOPTED AS AMENDED	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
FAILED TO ADOPT	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
WITHDRAWN	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
OTHER	<u> </u>	

1 Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Health & Human Services
2 Committee

3 Representative Brannan offered the following:

4
5 **Amendment (with title amendment)**

6 Remove everything after the enacting clause and insert:

7 Section 1. Section 627.6413, Florida Statutes, is created
8 to read:

9 627.6413 Coverage for hearing aids for children.—

10 (1) As used in this section, the term "hearing aid" means
11 any wearable instrument or device designed for, offered for the
12 purpose of, or represented as aiding persons with or
13 compensating for impaired hearing, and includes ear molds. The
14 term does not include a cochlear implant.

15 (2) A health insurer issuing an individual policy that
16 provides major medical or similar comprehensive coverage for a

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17 dependent child of the insured must provide coverage for a
18 hearing aid for any such child 18 years of age or younger
19 diagnosed with hearing loss by a physician licensed under
20 chapter 458 or chapter 459 or by an audiologist licensed under
21 part I of chapter 468, and for whom the hearing aid is
22 prescribed as medically necessary. Coverage for a hearing aid
23 prescribed to a child 18 years of age or younger must require
24 the hearing aid to be prescribed, fitted, and dispensed by a
25 physician licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459 or an
26 audiologist licensed under part I of chapter 468.

27 (3) The policy must provide benefits in any 24-month
28 period of at least \$3,500 per ear. The policy may limit coverage
29 for ear molds to six ear molds in any 24-month period. However,
30 if a child experiences a significant and unexpected change in
31 his or her hearing or a medical condition requiring an
32 unexpected change in the prescription for the hearing aid before
33 the existing 24-month period expires, and alterations to the
34 existing hearing aid do not or cannot meet the needs of the
35 child, a new 24-month period must begin with full benefits and
36 coverage.

37 (4) An insured is responsible for the cost of hearing aids
38 and related services which exceeds the coverage limit provided
39 by his or her policy.

40 (5) This section applies to a policy issued or renewed on
41 or after January 1, 2023.

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42 Section 2. Subsection (48) is added to section 641.31,
43 Florida Statutes, to read:

44 641.31 Health maintenance contracts.—

45 (48) (a) A health maintenance organization issuing an
46 individual contract that provides major medical or similar
47 comprehensive coverage for a dependent child of the subscriber
48 must provide coverage for a hearing aid for any such child 18
49 years of age or younger diagnosed with hearing loss by a
50 physician licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459 or by an
51 audiologist licensed under part I of chapter 468, and for whom
52 the hearing aid is prescribed as medically necessary. Coverage
53 for a hearing aid prescribed to a child 18 years of age or
54 younger must require the hearing aid to be prescribed, fitted,
55 and dispensed by a physician licensed under chapter 458 or
56 chapter 459 or an audiologist licensed under part I of chapter
57 468.

58 (b) The contract must provide benefits in any 24-month
59 period of at least \$3,500 per ear. The contract may limit
60 coverage for ear molds to six ear molds in any 24-month period.
61 However, if a child experiences a significant and unexpected
62 change in his or her hearing or a medical condition requiring an
63 unexpected change in the prescription for the hearing aid before
64 the existing 24-month period expires, and alterations to the
65 existing hearing aid do not or cannot meet the needs of the

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66 child, a new 24-month period must begin with full benefits and
67 coverage.

68 (c) A subscriber is responsible for the cost of hearing
69 aids and related services which exceeds the coverage limit
70 provided by his or her contract.

71 (d) As used in this section, the term "hearing aid" means
72 any wearable instrument or device designed for, offered for the
73 purpose of, or represented as aiding persons with or
74 compensating for impaired hearing, and includes ear molds. The
75 term does not include a cochlear implant.

76 (e) This subsection applies to a contract issued or
77 renewed on or after January 1, 2023.

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80 **T I T L E A M E N D M E N T**

81 Remove lines 3-23 and insert:
82 for children; creating s. 627.6413, F.S.; defining the term
83 "hearing aid"; requiring certain individual health insurance
84 policies to provide coverage for hearing aids for certain
85 children 18 years of age or younger under certain circumstances;
86 specifying certain coverage requirements; providing an
87 exception; providing that an insured is responsible for certain
88 costs that exceed the policy limit; providing applicability;
89 amending s. 641.31, F.S.; requiring certain individual health
90 maintenance organization contracts to provide coverage for

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91 hearing aids for certain children 18 years of age or younger
92 under certain circumstances; specifying certain coverage
93 requirements; providing an exception; providing that a
94 subscriber is responsible for certain costs that exceed the
95 contract limit; defining the term "hearing aid"; providing
96 applicability;