

**Department of Planning and Budget  
2010 Fiscal Impact Statement**

1. **Bill Number**      HB 1025
- House of Origin**   ☒ Introduced    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Engrossed
- Second House**    ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute    ☐ Enrolled
2. **Patron**              Hugo
3. **Committee**        Health, Welfare and Institutions
4. **Title**                Medical assistance services; provision of speech-language therapy
5. **Summary/Purpose:** This bill provides that Medicaid shall cover speech-language therapy services provided by an auditory verbal therapist (or other qualified person) when provided under the supervision of a licensed audiologist or speech-language pathologist.
6. **No Fiscal Impact**
7. **Budget amendment necessary:** No.
8. **Fiscal implications:** This bill is not expected to have a fiscal impact on Medicaid expenditures. Speech-language pathologists currently have authority granted by §54.1-2601, *Code of Virginia*, to employ or use the services of unlicensed persons. Medicaid-enrolled speech-language pathologists may use auditory verbal therapists (AVTs), or other “qualified persons”, as long as they comply with the supervisory requirements outlined in state regulations and in Department of Medical Assistance Service’s (DMAS) policy.
- DMAS examined auditory and hearing aid service billing codes in FY 2009 and found that providers are billing for auditory related services successfully as long as the billing is done for Medicaid-covered services by a Medicaid enrolled speech-language pathologist. This service is already being covered by Medicaid. Therefore, the addition of AVTs working under the supervision of licensed speech-language therapists will not have a fiscal impact on DMAS.
9. **Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:** Department of Medical Assistance Services.
10. **Technical amendment necessary:** None.
11. **Other comments:** None.

Date: 2/2/10 mst

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