

Department of Planning and Budget 2010 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB 424

House of Origin	<u> X </u>	Introduced	<u> </u>	Substitute	<u> </u>	Engrossed
Second House	<u> </u>	In Committee	<u> </u>	Substitute	<u> </u>	Enrolled

2. Patron: Hope

3. Committee: Health, Welfare and Institutions

4. Title: Audiologists; authority to dispense hearing aids

5. Summary: Provides that licensed audiologists may also engage in the practice of fitting or dealing in hearing aids without obtaining a separate license from the Board of Hearing Aid Specialists.

6. Unknown Fiscal Impact

7. Budget Amendment Necessary: No. There is no clear estimate as to the change in expenditure required for the provisions of this bill, however nongeneral fund appropriation can be adjusted administratively.

8. Fiscal Implications: The Department of Health Professions estimates that this bill could generate an increase in investigations, administrative proceedings and adjudications of cases relating to the dispensing and fitting of hearing aids. Conversely, Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation should experience a decrease in the complaints heard by the Board of Hearing Aid Specialists. Moreover, there may be a decline in revenue for the board since audiologist will no longer need to be licensed as a Hearing Aid Specialists in order to dispense hearing aids.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:
Department of Health Professions
Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None

Date: 1/29/2010

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