

TERESA E. REILLY
Legislative District 35A
Cecil and Harford Counties

DEPUTY MINORITY WHIP

Health and Government
Operations Committee

Subcommittees

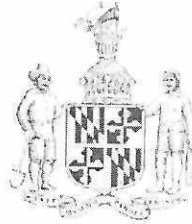
Health Occupations and
Long Term Care

Public Health and
Minority Health Disparities

Rules and Executive
Nominations Committee

Chair

Harford County House Delegation



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB 1145-Health Insurance - Hearing Aids for Adults - Coverage

February 23, 2023

Chairman Pena-Melnyk and Members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee:

This bill, which is crossfiled with **SB 397** as amended, would require coverage for adult hearing aids by insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations for up to \$1400 per hearing aid every 36 months.

It would also allow the insured member to purchase a more expensive hearing aid by paying the additional cost themselves without any penalty to the hearing aid provider.

The bill would allow carriers to provide coverage above the \$1400 limit.

I have requested an amendment to the bill to include Over-the-Counter hearing aids as a type of defined hearing aid for purposes of coverage based on the October 17, 2022, classification by the Food and Drug Administration.

Passage of this bill would increase access to hearing aids for the over 15% of the American adult population that is affected by hearing impairment. Loss of hearing increases risks to both physical and mental health outcomes, which drive up medical costs for individuals and claim costs for insurance providers.

I respectfully ask for a FAVORABLE report with my amendment from the Committee.

Delegate Teresa E. Reilly
District 35A
Cecil and Harford Counties



HB1145/753521/1

AMENDMENTS
PREPARED
BY THE
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES

21 FEB 23
13:40:14

BY: Delegate Reilly
(To be offered in the Health and Government Operations
Committee)

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 1145
(First Reading File Bill)

On page 2, in line 33, after “(A)” insert “(1)”.

On page 3, in lines 1 and 4, strike “(1)” and “(2)”, respectively, and substitute “(I)” and “(II)”, respectively; and after line 4, insert:

“(2) “HEARING AID” INCLUDES AN OVER-THE-COUNTER HEARING
AID AS DEFINED IN 21 C.F.R. § 800.30.”.