



General Assembly

February Session, 2012

Raised Bill No. 5497

LCO No. 1934

* _____ HB05497PH _____ 032312 _____ *

Referred to Committee on Program Review and
Investigations

Introduced by:
(PRI)

**AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS
COMMITTEE CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF HEARING
INSTRUMENT SPECIALISTS AND AUDIOLOGISTS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 20-398 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2012*):

3 (a) No person may engage in the practice of fitting or selling hearing
4 aids, or display a sign or in any other way advertise or claim to be a
5 person who sells or engages in the practice of fitting or selling hearing
6 aids unless such person has obtained a license under this chapter or as
7 an audiologist under sections 20-395a to 20-395g, inclusive. [No
8 audiologist, other than an audiologist who is a licensed hearing
9 instrument specialist on and after July 1, 1996, shall engage in the
10 practice of fitting or selling hearing aids until such audiologist has
11 presented satisfactory evidence to the commissioner that the
12 audiologist has (1) completed at least six semester hours of coursework
13 regarding the selection and fitting of hearing aids and eighty hours of
14 supervised clinical experience with children and adults in the selection

15 and fitting of hearing aids at an institution of higher education in a
16 program accredited, at the time of the audiologist's completion of
17 coursework and clinical experience, by the American Speech-
18 Language-Hearing Association or such successor organization as may
19 be approved by the department, or (2) has satisfactorily passed the
20 written section of the examination required by this section for licensure
21 as a hearing instrument specialist.] No person may receive a license,
22 except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, unless such person
23 has submitted proof satisfactory to the department that such person
24 has completed a four-year course at an approved high school or has an
25 equivalent education as determined by the department; has
26 satisfactorily completed a course of study in the fitting and selling of
27 hearing aids or a period of training approved by the department; and
28 has satisfactorily passed a written, oral and practical examination
29 given by the department. Application for the examination shall be on
30 forms prescribed and furnished by the department. Examinations shall
31 be given at least twice yearly. The fee for the examination shall be two
32 hundred dollars; and for the initial license and each renewal thereof
33 shall be two hundred fifty dollars.

34 (b) Nothing in this chapter shall prohibit a corporation, partnership,
35 trust, association or other like organization maintaining an established
36 business address from engaging in the business of selling or offering
37 for sale hearing aids at retail, provided such organization employs
38 only persons licensed, in accordance with the provisions of this
39 chapter or as audiologists under sections 20-395a to 20-395g, inclusive,
40 in the direct sale and fitting of such products.

41 (c) Nothing in this chapter shall prohibit a hearing instrument
42 specialist licensed under this chapter from making impressions for
43 earmolds or a physician licensed in this state or an audiologist licensed
44 under the provisions of sections 20-395a to 20-395g, inclusive, from
45 making impressions for earmolds in the course of such person's clinical
46 practice.

47 Sec. 2. Section 20-402 of the general statutes is repealed and the

