

# OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

Legislative Office Building, Room 5200  
Hartford, CT 06106 ◊ (860) 240-0200  
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/ofa>

HB-5780

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM TO EXPAND  
ACCESS TO HEARING TESTS AND HEARING AIDS FOR SENIOR  
CITIZENS.

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## **OFA Fiscal Note**

### **State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Aging and Disability Services, Dept.	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

### **Explanation**

The bill requires the Department of Aging and Disability Services (ADS) to establish a pilot program (from January 2024 to January 2025) to provide access to hearing screening tests and hearing aids for eligible senior citizens:

It is estimated that there are approximately 12,700 individuals aged 65 and older with hearing loss who meet the income criteria<sup>1</sup> of the program. It is not known how many individuals in this group would lack insurance, be in need of hearing aids and participate. For purposes of an example, if 40% to 60% of this group participates, then between 5,000 and 7,600 individuals could receive the benefit from the pilot program. Based on the Medicaid cost of hearing aids<sup>2</sup> of \$1,050, the benefit cost would range between \$5.3 million (\$2.7 million in both FY

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<sup>1</sup> Individuals within 247% of the Federal Poverty Level.

<sup>2</sup> Medicaid coverage for hearing aids: \$600 for binaural hearing aids and a dispensing fee of \$450 (total of \$1,050 for 2 hearing aids).

Primary Analyst: CG  
Contributing Analyst(s):  
Reviewer: RJW

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24 and FY 25) and \$8 million (\$4 million in both FY 24 and FY 25).

Additionally, costs of \$109,715 in FY 24 and \$100,977 in FY 25 are necessary to support the administration of the pilot program. ADS' state unit on aging would require one part-time durational Field Representative position at a full year cost of \$36,000 in FY 24 and a partial year cost of \$24,000 in FY 25 to assist in developing and overseeing the program. The associated fringe benefit cost for this position is \$15,415 in FY 24 and \$10,277 in FY 25. A full-time durational coordinator from a nonprofit community provider would be necessary to run the program at an estimated cost \$58,300 in FY 24 and \$66,700 in FY 25.

### ***The Out Years***

None.

Sources: *Department of Aging and Disability Services*  
*Department of Social Services Medicaid Information*