

HB0118S01 compared with HB0118

~~text~~ shows text that was in HB0118 but was deleted in HB0118S01.

text shows text that was not in HB0118 but was inserted into HB0118S01.

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Representative Norman K. Thurston proposes the following substitute bill:

CHILDREN'S HEARING ~~AIDS~~AID PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

2021 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Norman K. Thurston

Senate Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill ~~modifies~~amends provisions relating to the Children's Hearing Aid Program.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ requires the ~~department to establish a sliding scale based on the income of the child's family to determine the amount of assistance a child can receive under the program~~Department of Health to keep a record of the cost of providing a hearing aid to each child under the Children's Hearing Aid Program; and
- ▶ requires ~~some of the assistance~~ the department ~~gives to be in the form of a loan~~to send a letter to a family that participates in the Children's Hearing Aid program informing the family of how it may donate to the program.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

HB0118S01 compared with HB0118

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

26-10-11, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 349

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **26-10-11** is amended to read:

26-10-11. Children's Hearing Aid Program -- Advisory Committee -- Restricted

Account -- Rulemaking.

- (1) The department shall offer a program to provide hearing aids to children who qualify under this section.
- (2) The department shall provide hearing aids to a child who:
 - (a) is younger than six years old;
 - (b) is a resident of Utah;
 - (c) has been diagnosed with hearing loss by:
 - (i) an audiologist with pediatric expertise; and
 - (ii) a physician or physician assistant;
 - (d) provides documentation from an audiologist with pediatric expertise certifying that the child needs hearing aids;
 - (e) has obtained medical clearance by a medical provider for hearing aid fitting;
 - (f) does not qualify to receive a contribution that equals the full cost of a hearing aid from the state's Medicaid program or the Utah Children's Health Insurance Program; and
 - (g) meets the financial need qualification criteria established by the department by rule, made in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, for participation in the program.
- (3)
 - (a) There is established the Children's Hearing Aid Advisory Committee.
 - (b) The committee shall be composed of five members appointed by the executive director, and shall include:
 - (i) one audiologist with pediatric expertise;

HB0118S01 compared with HB0118

- (ii) one speech language pathologist;
- (iii) one teacher, certified under Title 53E, Public Education System -- State Administration, as a teacher of the deaf or a listening and spoken language therapist;
- (iv) one ear, nose, and throat specialist; and
- (v) one parent whose child:
 - (A) is six years old or older; and
 - (B) has hearing loss.
- (c) A majority of the members constitutes a quorum.
- (d) A vote of the majority of the members, with a quorum present, constitutes an action of the committee.
- (e) The committee shall elect a chair from its members.
- (f) The committee shall:
 - (i) meet at least quarterly;
 - (ii) recommend to the department medical criteria and procedures for selecting children who may qualify for assistance from the account; and
 - (iii) review rules developed by the department.
- (g) A member may not receive compensation or benefits for the member's service, but may receive per diem and travel expenses in accordance with Sections 63A-3-106 and 63A-3-107 and rules made by the Division of Finance, pursuant to Sections 63A-3-106 and 63A-3-107.
- (h) The department shall provide staff to the committee.
- (4) (a) There is created within the General Fund a restricted account known as the "Children's Hearing Aid Program Restricted Account."
 - (b) The Children's Hearing Aid Program Restricted Account shall consist of:
 - (i) amounts appropriated to the account by the Legislature; and
 - (ii) gifts, grants, devises, donations, and bequests of real property, personal property, or services, from any source, or any other conveyance that may be made to the account from private sources.
 - (c) Upon appropriation, all actual and necessary operating expenses for the committee described in Subsection (3) shall be paid by the account.
 - (d) Upon appropriation, no more than 9% of the account money may be used for the

HB0118S01 compared with HB0118

department's expenses.

(e) If this account is repealed in accordance with Section 63I-1-226, any remaining assets in the account shall be deposited into the General Fund.

(5) (a) For each child who receives a hearing aid under Subsection (2), the department shall maintain a record of the cost of providing services to the child under this section.

(b) No more than six months after services are provided to a child under this section, the department shall send a letter to the family of the child who received services that includes information regarding:

(i) the total amount paid by the department to provide services to the child under this section; and

(ii) the process by which the family may donate all or part of the amount paid to provide services to the child to fund the Children's Hearing Aid Program.

(c) All donations made under Subsection (6)(c) shall be deposited into the Children's Hearing Aid Program Restricted Account created in Subsection (4)(a).

~~[(5)]~~ (6) The department shall make rules, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, to establish procedures for:

(a) identifying the children who are financially eligible to receive services under the program; ~~[and]~~

(b) reviewing and paying for services provided to a child under the program~~[-];~~ subject to the following requirements:

~~— (i) the department shall establish a sliding scale based on the income of the child's family to determine the amount of assistance the program shall provide;~~

~~— (ii) if the income of the child's family is less than or equal to 150% of the federal poverty level, the department shall provide assistance with no obligation to reimburse the department;~~

~~— (iii) if the income of the child's family exceeds 150% of the federal poverty level, the department shall provide financial assistance in the form of a loan; and~~

~~— (iv) the department may charge interest, not to exceed market rate, for the loan; and~~

(c) an individual to donate to the program all or part of the cost of providing services to a child under this section, without regard to whether the donation is made in response to the letter described in Subsection (5)(b)(iii).

HB0118S01 compared with HB0118

(6)(7) The department shall, before December 1 of each year, submit a report to the Health and Human Services Interim Committee that describes the operation and accomplishments of the program.