

SENATE BILL NO. 235

BY SENATOR COLOMB

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 22:1038(A) and to enact R.S. 22:1038(G), relative to insurance
3 coverage for hearing aids; to require hearing aid coverage for individuals covered
4 under certain insurance policies; to provide with respect to policies already in effect;
5 and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 22:1038(A) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 22:1038(G)
8 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §1038. Hearing aid coverage ~~for minor child~~

10 A. As used in this Section, "hearing aid" shall mean a nondisposable device
11 that is of a design and circuitry to optimize audibility and listening skills ~~in the~~
12 ~~environment commonly experienced by children.~~

13 * * *

14 **G.(1) Any entity subject to the provisions of this Section that also**
15 **provides coverage of hearing aids to individuals aged eighteen and over shall be**
16 **subject to the provisions of this Subsection. Each entity to which this Subsection**
17 **applies shall allow any covered individual seeking coverage of a covered hearing**
18 **aid the option to choose a hearing aid priced higher than the benefit payable**
19 **under the applicable policy, contract, program, or plan. The amount payable**
20 **by the entity shall be in accordance with that policy, contract, program, or plan.**
21 **Any additional amounts payable to the hearing aid provider shall be paid by the**
22 **covered individual.**

23 **(2) The provisions of this Subsection shall apply to any new policy,**
24 **contract, program, or plan issued by an entity subject to the provisions of this**
25 **Subsection on or after January 1, 2019. Any such policy, contract, program, or**

1 plan in effect prior to January 1, 2019, shall convert to the provisions of this
2 Subsection on or before the renewal date but in no event later than January 1,
3 2020, but hearing aid providers may offer the option described in this
4 Subsection on or after January 1, 2019.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____