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# Wisconsin Legislative Council

## ACT MEMO

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**2023 Wisconsin Act 179**  
[2023 Senate Bill 373]

**Selling and Fitting Over-the-Counter Hearing Aids**

### BACKGROUND

A recent change to federal law allows air-conduction hearing aids for use by adults to be purchased over the counter without a prescription or the involvement of a licensed person. Prior Wisconsin law generally required that hearing aids must be provided by a licensed hearing instrument specialist or a licensed audiologist.

### 2023 WISCONSIN ACT 179

2023 Wisconsin Act 179 specifies that a license is not required to sell or fit over-the-counter hearing aids, as defined under federal law. This change generally allows over-the-counter hearing aids to be purchased without a prescription or the involvement of a licensed person.

The act also removes the requirement that a hearing instrument specialist or audiologist must provide a receipt when supplying over-the-counter hearing aids, and updates the scope of practice for hearing instrument specialists and audiologists to include ordering the use of hearing aids.

**Effective date:** March 24, 2024

For a full history of the bill, visit the Legislature's [bill history page](#).

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