
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



Memo published: October 9, 2023

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2023 Senate Bill 373

Senate Substitute Amendment 1

BACKGROUND

Generally, under state law, hearing aids must be provided by a licensed hearing instrument specialist or a licensed audiologist. Under federal law, air-conduction hearing aids for use by adults may be purchased over the counter without a prescription or the involvement of a licensed person. Also under federal law, any hearing aid that does not meet the over-the-counter requirements requires a prescription or order.

2023 SENATE BILL 373

Senate Bill 373 specifies that a license is not required to sell or fit over-the-counter hearing aids, as defined under federal law. This generally allows over-the-counter hearing aids to be purchased without a prescription or the involvement of a licensed person. The bill also removes the requirement that a hearing instrument specialist must provide a receipt when supplying over-the-counter hearing aids.

SENATE SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1

In addition to what is included in the bill, Senate Substitute Amendment 1 updates the scope of practice for hearing instrument specialists and audiologists to include ordering the use of hearing aids. The amendment also removes the requirement that an audiologist must provide a receipt when supplying over-the-counter hearing aids.

BILL HISTORY

Senator Cabral-Guevara offered Senate Substitute Amendment 1 on September 8, 2023. On October 4, 2023, the Senate Committee on Health recommended adoption of the amendment, and passage of the bill, as amended, on votes of Ayes, 6; Noes, 0.

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

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