

SENATE BILL NO. 235

BY SENATOR COLOMB

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AN ACT

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

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

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

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

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

* * *

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

(2) The provisions of this Subsection shall apply to any new policy, contract, program, or plan issued by an entity subject to the provisions of this 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: _____