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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Substitute Bill Comparative Synopsis

Sub. H.B. 243

133rd General Assembly

House Health

Yosef Schiff, Attorney

This table summarizes how the latest substitute version of the bill differs from the immediately preceding version. It addresses only the topics on which the two versions differ substantively. It does not list topics on which the two bills are substantively the same.

Previous Version (As Introduced)	Latest Version (I_133_0776-6)
Minimum coverage requirements	
Requires insurers to cover one hearing aid per impaired ear up to \$1,400 every 36 months for an insured person 21 years or younger.	Increases the coverage limit to \$2,500 every 48 months and requires the hearing impairment to be verified by a licensed audiologist or an otolaryngologist or other licensed physician.
Requires insurers to cover all related services prescribed by an Ohio-licensed audiologist and dispensed by an Ohio-licensed audiologist or Ohio-licensed hearing aid dealer. <i>(R.C. 3902.51(A).)</i>	Expands who can prescribe related services to include an otolaryngologist or licensed audiologist regardless of where these persons are licensed. Expands the dispensing limitation to also allow dispensing by a licensed audiologist, licensed hearing aid dealer or fitter, or otolaryngologist, regardless of where these persons are licensed. <i>(R.C. 3902.51(A).)</i>
Professional standards	
No provision.	Requires an insurer to provide coverage only for those hearing aids that are considered medically appropriate for the individual according to professional standards established by the State Speech and Hearing Professionals Board.

Previous Version (As Introduced)	Latest Version (I_133_0776-6)
No provision.	Prohibits an insurer from excluding coverage for any hearing aid that is considered medically appropriate according to the standards described above.
No provision.	Requires the State Speech and Hearing Professionals Board to adopt the standards described above. (R.C. 3902.51(D).)