

Fiscal Note

BILL # SB 1293

TITLE: health insurance; hearing aids; children

SPONSOR: Marsh

STATUS: As Introduced

PREPARED BY: Rebecca Perrera

Description

The bill would require health insurers to cover 100% of the cost of hearing aids for children under 18 years old. The bill would require the Department of Insurance and Financial (DIFI) to establish minimum coverage and allow health insurers to charge the insured member for the difference if a higher cost hearing aid is selected. In addition, the bill would require DIFI to biennially approve of a list of licensed audiologists.

Estimated Impact

The Arizona Department of Administration (ADOA) currently provides coverage for hear aids for its members through the Health Insurance Trust Fund (HITF). Therefore, we anticipate there is no anticipated cost to the state under this proposal.

There would be no impact on AHCCCS's contracted health plans because AHCCCS would be exempt from the requirements of the bill.

Analysis

The state employee health insurance plan is run by ADOA through HITF. The state uses a self-insured model, meaning that the state is responsible for the direct costs of health insurance claims. The state's health care plan currently provides coverage for hearing aids.

Local Government Impact

The impact of the bill on local governments' health insurance costs cannot be determined in advance. The impact would be dependent on current coverage as well as changes in utilization under the new hearing aid coverage requirement.

2/4/22

