

Legislative Analysis



REMOVAL OF HEARING AID DEALER LICENSING

Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 4883 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Curt S. VanderWall

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

House Bill 4884 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Ron Robinson

House Bill 4885 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Angela Witwer

House Bill 4886 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Kathy Schmaltz

Committee: Health Policy
Complete to 10-21-25

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4883 would repeal Article 13 of the Occupational Code,¹ which regulates hearing aid dealers and salespeople in Michigan.

The Occupational Code establishes licensing requirements for several professions in the state and creates occupation-specific boards to oversee them. Article 13 specifically governs the licensing and regulation of hearing aid dealers and salespeople. It outlines requirements such as qualifications and examinations to obtain a license and disciplinary procedures if license standards are not met.

The bill would repeal Article 13 entirely, removing all state licensing requirements and oversight for hearing aid dealers and salespeople. It would also repeal the section of the State License Fee Act that sets their licensing fees and delete references to hearing aid dealers in other parts of the law.

MCL 339.303a and 339.411 (amend) and MCL 339.1301 to 339.1309 and 338.2231 (repeal)

House Bill 4884 would amend the General Sales Tax Act to revise the definition of the term “prescription” by removing language that refers to the licensure of hearing aid dealers and salespeople under Article 13 of the Occupational Code.

The act currently defines a prescription as an order issued by a licensed physician or other health professional, including an order or instruction regarding a hearing aid from a licensed hearing aid dealer or salesperson. The bill would remove the requirement that hearing aid dealers and salespersons be licensed. Orders and instructions regarding hearing aids from a hearing aid dealer or salesperson would still qualify as prescriptions in the General Sales Tax Act.

MCL 205.51a

¹ <https://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/mcl/pdf/MCL-299-1980-13.pdf>

House Bill 4886 would amend the Use Tax Act to similarly remove the licensure of hearing aid dealers and salespeople from the definition of “prescription.”

Current law mirrors the language in the General Sales Tax Act by recognizing hearing aid orders from licensed hearing aid dealers and salespeople as prescriptions. The bill would eliminate the requirement that hearing aid dealers and salespersons be licensed for purposes of this definition.

MCL 205.92b

House Bill 4885 would amend the Public Health Code to remove references to licensed hearing aid dealers and salespeople.

Part 168 (Audiology) of the code provides that its requirement that an individual must be licensed as an audiologist in order to engage in the *practice of audiology* does not limit other professionals from appropriately practicing their own professions, including persons licensed under Article 13 of the Occupational Code. The bill would remove persons licensed under Article 13 of the Occupational Code from this provision.²

Part 176 (Speech-Language Pathology) of the code now provides that the practice of speech-language pathology does not include the fitting and dispensing of hearing aids under Article 13 of the Occupational Code. The bill would remove the reference to Article 13, so that the practice of speech-language pathology would not include the fitting and dispensing of hearing aids in general.

MCL 333.16807 and 333.17601

House Bills 4884, 4885, and 4886 are tie-barred to House Bill 4883 and would take effect only if that bill is also enacted.

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bills 4883 to 4886 would have a minimal fiscal impact on the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA). The bills would eliminate licensure of hearing aid dealers, salespersons, and trainees; currently, there are about 580 licensees. The resulting reduction in annual license fee revenue would be approximately \$36,000.

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

² Among other things, the *practice of audiology* is defined as including the “[s]electing, fitting, and dispensing of amplification systems, including hearing aids and related devices, and providing training for their use.” Under the code, a person who practices a regulated health profession without a license is guilty of a felony.