



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: [Am. Sub. H.B. 109 of the 130th G.A.](#) **Date:** December 15, 2014
Status: As Passed by the Senate **Sponsor:** Rep. Damschroder

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Specifies individuals who are permitted to recommend and fit hearing aids and prohibits sales of hearing aids via mail

State Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on the state.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- The bill establishes a fine of \$1,000, which local prosecutors would likely assess and distribute to the county where the action was brought.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill specifies individuals who are permitted to recommend and fit hearing aids. These individuals include licensed hearing aid dealers or fitters, physicians authorized to practice medicine, and licensed audiologists. The bill prohibits a person from selling or distributing hearing aids through the mail unless a person received written acknowledgement from the ultimate consumer that the consumer was advised that an in-person examination by a licensed professional is recommended. This prohibition does not apply to instruments or devices that fit into the ear and are intended to be used only for hunting or shooting. According to the Executive Director of the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board, the bill will have no direct fiscal effect on the state.

The bill also establishes a fine of not more than \$1,000 for violations of the bill's prohibition. There is some ambiguity related to how these fine revenues are distributed. That being said, the revenue would most likely be disbursed to the county that holds jurisdiction where a case takes place.

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