



January 27, 2025

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## HOUSE BILL No. 1572

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DIGEST OF HB 1572 (Updated January 22, 2025 3:47 pm - DI 140)

**Citations Affected:** IC 25-1; IC 25-20; IC 25-35.6.

**Synopsis:** Hearing aids and speech-language pathologists. Adds speech-language pathology assistant to the definition of "practitioner" for purposes of the provision of telehealth. Specifies services included in the definition of "audiology". Allows for the sale, use, provision of customer service, or distribution of an over-the-counter hearing aid without the fitting of the hearing aid by a hearing aid dealer who has been issued a certificate of registration or a licensed audiologist. (Current law does not differentiate between a prescription hearing aid and an over-the-counter hearing aid concerning the fitting of the hearing aid.)

**Effective:** July 1, 2025.

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### Goss-Reaves

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January 21, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Public Health.  
January 27, 2025, reported — Do Pass.

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HB 1572—LS 7587/DI 104





January 27, 2025

First Regular Session of the 124th General Assembly (2025)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2024 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

## HOUSE BILL No. 1572

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A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning professions and occupations.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 25-1-9.5-3.5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.109-2022,  
2 SECTION 4, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
3 JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 3.5. (a) As used in this chapter, "practitioner"  
4 means an individual who holds an unlimited license to practice as any  
5 of the following in Indiana:  
6 (1) An athletic trainer licensed under IC 25-5.1.  
7 (2) A chiropractor licensed under IC 25-10.  
8 (3) A dental hygienist licensed under IC 25-13.  
9 (4) The following:  
10 (A) A dentist licensed under IC 25-14.  
11 (B) An individual who holds a dental residency permit issued  
12 under IC 25-14-1-5.  
13 (C) An individual who holds a dental faculty license under  
14 IC 25-14-1-5.5.  
15 (5) A diabetes educator licensed under IC 25-14.3.  
16 (6) A dietitian licensed under IC 25-14.5.  
17 (7) A genetic counselor licensed under IC 25-17.3.

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- 1 (8) The following:
- 2 (A) A physician licensed under IC 25-22.5.
- 3 (B) An individual who holds a temporary permit under
- 4 IC 25-22.5-5-4.
- 5 (9) A nurse licensed under IC 25-23.
- 6 (10) The following:
- 7 (A) An occupational therapist licensed under IC 25-23.5.
- 8 (B) An occupational therapy assistant licensed under
- 9 IC 25-23.5.
- 10 (11) Any behavioral health and human services professional
- 11 licensed under IC 25-23.6.
- 12 (12) An optometrist licensed under IC 25-24.
- 13 (13) A pharmacist licensed under IC 25-26.
- 14 (14) A physical therapist licensed under IC 25-27.
- 15 (15) A physician assistant licensed under IC 25-27.5.
- 16 (16) A podiatrist licensed under IC 25-29.
- 17 (17) A psychologist licensed under IC 25-33.
- 18 (18) A respiratory care practitioner licensed under IC 25-34.5.
- 19 (19) A speech-language pathologist or audiologist licensed under
- 20 IC 25-35.6.
- 21 (20) A veterinarian licensed under IC 25-38.1.
- 22 (21) A behavior analyst licensed under IC 25-8.5.
- 23 (22) A school psychologist licensed by the department of
- 24 education.
- 25 (b) The term includes the following:
- 26 (1) A developmental therapist enrolled by the bureau of child
- 27 development services to provide special instruction, as defined in
- 28 34 CFR 303.13(b)(14), to infants and toddlers receiving early
- 29 intervention services.
- 30 (2) A peer as defined in IC 12-21-8-5 and certified by the division
- 31 of mental health and addiction.
- 32 **(3) A speech-language pathology assistant (IC**
- 33 **25-35.6-1-2(g)(3)).**
- 34 ~~(4)~~ (4) A clinical fellow in speech language pathology.
- 35 ~~(5)~~ (5) A student who:
- 36 (A) is pursuing a course of study in, or is a graduate from, a
- 37 program in a profession specified in subsection (a)(1) through
- 38 (a)(22); and
- 39 (B) is providing services directed by an individual who holds
- 40 a license in Indiana for that profession.
- 41 ~~(6)~~ (6) The following providers within a community mental health
- 42 center:



1 (A) A qualified behavioral health professional.

2 (B) Other behavioral health professional.

3 ~~(6)~~ (7) A physical therapist assistant certified under  
4 IC 25-27-1-6.3.

5 (c) ~~The term includes a behavior analyst during the time in which~~  
6 ~~the professional licensing agency is preparing to implement licensure~~  
7 ~~of behavioral analysts under IC 25-8.5. This subsection expires January~~  
8 ~~1, 2025.~~

9 SECTION 2. IC 25-20-1-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.178-2014,  
10 SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
11 JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 1. Except as the context requires otherwise:

12 "Board" shall mean the medical licensing board.

13 "Committee" means the committee of hearing aid dealer examiners.

14 **"Over-the-counter hearing aid" has the meaning set forth in 21**  
15 **CFR 800.30(b).**

16 **"Prescription hearing aid" shall mean any instrument or device**  
17 **worn on the human body, designed and fit for an individual with a**  
18 **hearing loss and any parts, attachments or accessories of such an**  
19 **instrument or device. The term does not include a personal sound**  
20 **amplifier. has the meaning set forth in 21 CFR 800.30(b).**

21 ~~"Personal sound amplifier" means a device that simply magnifies~~  
22 ~~sound and does not address an individual's specific hearing loss.~~

23 "Fit hearing aids" shall mean the hearing aid dealer's or salesman's  
24 evaluation or measurement of the powers or range of human hearing  
25 for the subsequent selection or adaption or sale of hearing aids.

26 "Dispense hearing aids" shall mean the sale, lease or rental of a  
27 hearing aid to anyone other than a hearing aid dealer.

28 "Hearing aid dealer" shall mean any person who fits or dispenses  
29 hearing aids and who receives a commission or salary derived from the  
30 sale of such devices or maintenance of such devices except any person  
31 who serves said dealer only in an administrative or clerical manner and  
32 who does not evaluate, fit or dispense hearing aids shall be excluded.

33 "Audiologist" means an individual holding a license to practice  
34 audiology issued under IC 25-35.6.

35 "Registration" shall refer to the legal privilege given a person who  
36 holds a hearing aid dealer certificate of registration; and "Temporary  
37 Registration" shall refer to the legal privilege given a person who holds  
38 a temporary hearing aid dealer certificate of registration.

39 SECTION 3. IC 25-20-1-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.90-2019,  
40 SECTION 46, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
41 JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 2. (a) This section does not apply to:

42 (1) a person who is an audiologist licensed under IC 25-35.6; or



- 1 (2) the sale of hearing aid batteries or cords; or  
 2 **(3) the sale, use, provision of customer service, or distribution**  
 3 **of an over-the-counter hearing aid.**  
 4 (b) It is unlawful for a person to fit or dispense **prescription** hearing  
 5 aids in Indiana unless the person is:  
 6 (1) an individual who holds a valid hearing aid dealer certificate  
 7 of registration; or  
 8 (2) a hearing aid dealer in training who fits or dispenses hearing  
 9 aids while under the supervision and direction of an individual  
 10 who holds a temporary or valid hearing aid dealer certificate of  
 11 registration;  
 12 issued by the committee.  
 13 **(c) It is unlawful for a person to fit hearing aids in Indiana**  
 14 **unless the person is:**  
 15 **(1) an individual who holds a valid hearing aid dealer**  
 16 **certificate of registration; or**  
 17 **(2) a hearing aid dealer in training who fits hearing aids while**  
 18 **under the supervision and direction of an individual who**  
 19 **holds a temporary or valid hearing aid dealer certificate of**  
 20 **registration;**  
 21 **issued by the committee.**  
 22 SECTION 4. IC 25-35.6-1-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.212-2005,  
 23 SECTION 63, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
 24 JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 2. (a) As used in this article, "board" means the  
 25 speech-language pathology and audiology board established by this  
 26 article.  
 27 (b) As used in this article, "person" means any individual,  
 28 organization, or corporate body, except that only an individual may be  
 29 licensed under this article.  
 30 (c) As used in this article, "speech-language pathologist" means an  
 31 individual who practices speech-language pathology and who presents  
 32 himself **or herself** to the public by any title or description of services  
 33 incorporating the words speech pathologist, speech-language  
 34 pathologist, speech therapist, speech-language specialist, teacher of  
 35 communication disorders, speech correctionist, speech clinician,  
 36 language pathologist, language therapist, logopedist, communicologist,  
 37 voice therapist, voice pathologist, or any similar title or description of  
 38 service.  
 39 (d) As used in this article, "speech-language pathology" means the  
 40 application of nonmedical and nonsurgical principles, methods, and  
 41 procedures for the following:  
 42 (1) The prevention, evaluation, habilitation, rehabilitation,



- 1 instruction, and research of communication and swallowing  
 2 disorders.
- 3 (2) The elective modification of communication behaviors.
- 4 (3) The enhancement of communication, including the use of  
 5 augmentative or alternate communication strategies.
- 6 (e) As used in this article, "audiologist" means an individual who  
 7 practices audiology and who presents himself **or herself** to the public  
 8 by any title or description of services incorporating the words  
 9 audiologist, hearing clinician, hearing therapist, hearing specialist,  
 10 audiometrist, vestibular specialist, or any similar title or description of  
 11 service.
- 12 (f) As used in this article, "audiology" means the application of  
 13 nonmedical and nonsurgical principles, methods, and procedures of  
 14 prevention, evaluation, habilitation, rehabilitation, instruction, and  
 15 research of disorders of hearing, auditory function, and vestibular  
 16 function. **The term includes:**
- 17 (1) **the selling and fitting of prescription hearing aids and**  
 18 **over-the-counter hearing aids;**
- 19 (2) **auditory training; and**
- 20 (3) **speech reading.**
- 21 (g) As used in this article, "support personnel" means individuals  
 22 who meet the qualifications which the board shall establish for the  
 23 following:
- 24 (1) Speech-language pathology aide.
- 25 (2) Speech-language pathology associate.
- 26 (3) Speech-language pathology assistant.
- 27 (h) As used in this article, "audiology assistant" means an individual  
 28 who:
- 29 (1) is not licensed as an audiologist under this article;
- 30 (2) meets qualifications which the board may establish; and
- 31 (3) provides specific services under the direction and supervision  
 32 of a licensed audiologist.
- 33 (i) As used in this article, "clinical fellowship" means a supervised  
 34 professional experience.
- 35 (j) As used in this article, "direct supervision" means onsite  
 36 observation and guidance while an assigned evaluation or therapeutic  
 37 activity is being performed.
- 38 SECTION 5. IC 25-35.6-4-1, AS ADDED BY P.L.178-2014,  
 39 SECTION 4, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
 40 JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 1. (a) This section does not apply to **the**  
 41 **following:**
- 42 (1) A prescription or order by a person who:



- 1           (+) **(A)** is licensed, certified, registered, or regulated by a
- 2           board listed in IC 25-1-9-1; and
- 3           (2) **(B)** has authority to issue a prescription or order for a
- 4           hearing aid.
- 5           **(2) The sale, use, marketing, provision of customer services,**
- 6           **or distribution of an over-the-counter hearing aid.**
- 7           (b) A person may not sell, lease, or rent a **prescription** hearing aid
- 8           (as defined in IC 25-20-1-1) in Indiana unless the hearing aid has been
- 9           fitted in person by any of the following:
- 10           (1) A hearing aid dealer who has been issued a certificate of
- 11           registration under IC 25-20.
- 12           (2) An audiologist who is licensed under this article.
- 13           (c) A person who violates this section commits a Class B infraction.





COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker: Your Committee on Public Health, to which was referred House Bill 1572, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to HB 1572 as introduced.)

BARRETT

Committee Vote: Yeas 11, Nays 0

