

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 34

Introduced by Assembly Member Carter

February 17, 2010

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 34—Relative to hearing aids.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 34, as introduced, Carter. Hearing aids.

This measure would respectfully urge the federal Food and Drug Administration to create a new over-the-counter hearing aid classification, as specified.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Senior citizens and low-income persons have the
2 least amount of money available to purchase hearing aids; and

3 WHEREAS, Although hearing disorders may afflict any person,
4 senior citizens and low-income persons can least afford medical
5 procedures to improve their hearing; and

6 WHEREAS, The ability to hear is necessary to function socially
7 and to be a contributing member of society; and

8 WHEREAS, The person who has a hearing disorder is the best
9 qualified to determine whether he or she should purchase an
10 over-the-counter hearing aid; and

11 WHEREAS, Hearing test units that allow senior citizens and
12 others to determine which over-the-counter hearing aid is best for
13 them can be installed in drugstores; and

14 WHEREAS, Hearing aid manufacturers have stated, that
15 over-the-counter hearing aids are safe for the customer; and

1 WHEREAS, The cost of a high-quality hearing aid obtained
2 through an audiologist or hearing aid dispenser typically exceeds
3 six thousand dollars (\$6,000); and

4 WHEREAS, The electronics in a high-quality home
5 entertainment system with the ability to receive and amplify audio
6 frequencies and reproduce distortion-free sound at all frequencies
7 and levels are more sophisticated than the electronics in a hearing
8 aid and cost significantly less than a typical hearing aid that is sold
9 through an audiologist or hearing aid dispenser; and

10 WHEREAS, The manufacturing cost of high-quality integrated
11 circuits for current hearing aids is less than twelve dollars and
12 fifty-cents (\$12.50); and

13 WHEREAS, Accordingly, hearing aids that sell for two thousand
14 five hundred dollars (\$2,500) per ear can be produced with
15 replaceable batteries and offered as over-the-counter products for
16 approximately one hundred dollars (\$100) per ear; now, therefore,
17 be it

18 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
19 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California
20 respectfully urges the federal Food and Drug Administration to
21 create a new over-the-counter hearing aid classification that grants
22 over-the-counter sales, distribution, and use-status to
23 one-size-fits-most hearing-aid devices that meet safety and efficacy
24 requirements; and be it further

25 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
26 of this resolution to the federal Food and Drug Administration,
27 and to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the House
28 of Representatives, and each Senator and Representative from
29 California in the Congress of the United States.

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