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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 2929 Session of  
2004

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INTRODUCED BY GRUCELA, SCAVELLO, BEBKO-JONES, BELARDI, BUNT,  
CURRY, DeWEESE, DONATUCCI, FABRIZIO, GEORGE, GOODMAN,  
JOSEPHS, KOTIK, LAUGHLIN, MANN, NAILOR, READSHAW, ROONEY,  
STABACK, WALKO, WASHINGTON, WILT, WOJNAROSKI, YOUNGBLOOD,  
YUDICHAK AND CRAHALLA, OCTOBER 20, 2004

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE, OCTOBER 20, 2004

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AN ACT

1 Amending the act of May 17, 1921 (P.L.682, No.284), entitled "An  
2 act relating to insurance; amending, revising, and  
3 consolidating the law providing for the incorporation of  
4 insurance companies, and the regulation, supervision, and  
5 protection of home and foreign insurance companies, Lloyds  
6 associations, reciprocal and inter-insurance exchanges, and  
7 fire insurance rating bureaus, and the regulation and  
8 supervision of insurance carried by such companies,  
9 associations, and exchanges, including insurance carried by  
10 the State Workmen's Insurance Fund; providing penalties; and  
11 repealing existing laws," further providing for health  
12 insurance coverage of hearing aids.

13 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
14 hereby enacts as follows:

15 Section 1. Section 635 of the act of May 17, 1921 (P.L.682,  
16 No.284), known as The Insurance Company Law of 1921, added  
17 October 16, 1998 (P.L.784, No.98), is amended to read:

18 Section 635. Hearing Aid Coverage.--[Any insurer that  
19 underwrites Medicare or Medicaid insurance for insureds residing  
20 in this Commonwealth shall provide coverage in such insurance  
21 for a hearing aid sold in accordance with section 403 of the act

of November 24, 1976 (P.L.1182, No.262), known as the "Hearing Aid Sales Registration Law."] (a) A health insurance policy shall provide coverage for hearing aids sold in accordance with section 403 of the act of November 24, 1976 (P.L.1182, No.262), known as the "Hearing Aid Sales Registration Law." Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent application of deductible or copayment provisions contained in the policy.

(b) This section shall apply to any health insurance policy offered, issued or renewed on or after the effective date of this subsection.

(c) This section shall not apply to the following types of policies:

(1) Accident only.

(2) Limited benefit.

(3) Credit.

(4) Dental.

(5) Vision.

(6) Specified disease.

(7) Medicare supplement.

(8) Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS) supplement.

(9) Long-term care or disability income.

(10) Workers' compensation.

(11) Automobile medical payment.

(d) As used in this section:

"Health insurance policy" means any individual or group health insurance policy, subscriber contract, certificate or plan which provides medical or health care coverage by any health care facility or licensed health care provider which is offered by or is governed under this act or any of the

1 following:

2 (1) Subarticle (f) of Article IV of the act of June 13, 1967  
3 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the "Public Welfare Code."

4 (2) The act of December 29, 1972 (P.L.1701, No.364), known  
5 as the "Health Maintenance Organization Act."

6 (3) The act of May 18, 1976 (P.L.123, No.54), known as the  
7 "Individual Accident and Sickness Insurance Minimum Standards  
8 Act."

9 (4) Any entity subject to 40 Pa.C.S. Ch. 61 (relating to  
10 hospital plan corporations) or 63 (relating to professional  
11 health services plan corporations).

12 "Insurer" means any entity that issues a health insurance  
13 policy.

14 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.