

2016 -- H 7046

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

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A N A C T

RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS - HEARING AID DEALERS AND
FITTERS

Introduced By: Representatives Lombardi, Shekarchi, Hull, Slater, and Diaz

Date Introduced: January 07, 2016

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 5-49-13 of the General Laws in Chapter 5-49 entitled "Hearing Aid
2 Dealers and Fitters" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **5-49-13. Prohibited acts and practices.** – (a) No person shall:

4 (1) Sell, barter, or offer to sell or barter, a license.

5 (2) Purchase or procure by barter a license with intent to use it as evidence of the
6 holder's qualifications to practice the fitting and sale of hearing aids.

7 (3) Alter a license with fraudulent intent.

8 (4) Use or attempt to use as a valid license a license which has been purchased,
9 fraudulently obtained, counterfeited, or materially altered.

10 (5) Willfully make a false statement in an application for license or application for
11 renewal of a license.

12 (b) The sale and/or delivery of hearing aids directly to the consumer through the internet
13 or direct mail in those instances where the consumer does not have a valid certificate of need
14 pursuant to §5-49-2.1 is prohibited and shall be punishable by a fine of not more than five
15 hundred dollars (\$500) or imprisonment for not more than ninety (90) days, or both.

16 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

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1 This act would prohibit the sale and/or delivery of hearing aids directly to the consumer
2 through the internet or direct mail when the consumer does not have a valid certificate of need,
3 and would provide for criminal penalties for violations.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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