

One Hundred Ninth Legislature - First Session - 2025

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB154

Chairperson: Senator Brian Hardin

Committee: Health and Human Services

Date of Hearing: February 05, 2025

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 154 seeks to clarify that cerumen removal and limited tinnitus care are within the scope of practice for Hearing Instrument Specialists. LB 154 allows HIS to perform cerumen management if the following requirements are met:

- The HIS must hold their license for two years;
- Mandatory increased continuing education for cerumen management;
- Includes one hour of continuing education in pharmacology updates and infection control measures;
- Cerumen management is limited to the outer one-third of the ear;
- Patients who have had any previous ear surgery would be referred out for cerumen management.

The usage of tinnitus care has been limited to permitting the audiologists who work within the hearing aid manufacturer's audiology departments, also work with those tinnitus maskers remotely.

LB 154 also clarifies that Hearing Instrument Specialists only work with individuals over the age of 18 and aligns state rules with federal regulations under 21 C.F.R. 801.422, ensuring that HIS and Audiologists can order the dispensing of the newly created over the counter and prescription hearing aid categories following the August 2022 U.S. Food and Drug Administration final rule.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Brian Hardin