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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

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A N A C T

RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS - HEARING AID DEALERS AND
FITTERS

Introduced By: Representatives Lombardi, McEntee, and Hull

Date Introduced: January 06, 2017

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.**

4 (a) No person shall:

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

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

8 (3) Alter a license with fraudulent intent.

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

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

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

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS - HEARING AID DEALERS AND
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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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