

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2009
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB451

Hearing Date: Thursday February 12, 2009
Committee On: Health and Human Services
Introducer: Campbell
One Liner: Rename the Hearing Aid Instrument Dispensers and Fitters Practice Act

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:
Aye: 7 Senators Campbell, Gay, Gloor, Howard, Pankonin, Stuthman, Wallman
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Proponents:
Senator Campbell
Misti Chmiel
Michael Grace
Ken Stallons
Joe Kohout

Representing:
Introducer
Nebraska Hearing Society
Nebraska Hearing Society
Nebraska Hearing Society
Nebraska Hearing Society

Opponents:
Jody Spalding
Stephen Boney
Ryan McCreery
Craig Foss

Representing:
Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology
Nebraska Speech Language Hearing Association
Nebraska Speech Language Hearing Association
Self

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 451 renames the Hearing Aid Instrument Dispensers and Fitters Practice Act to the Hearing Instrument Specialists Practice Act. The bill changes the term "hearing aid" to "hearing instrument." The bill changes the name of the Board of Hearing Aid Dispensers and Fitters to the Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists. The bill changes licensure as a hearing aid fitter and dealer to licensure as a hearing instrument specialist.

The bill changes membership on the Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists (board). Current law requires the Board of Hearing Aid Dispensers and Fitters to consist of the following professional members: "three hearing aid dispensers and fitters, one otolaryngologist, and one audiologist." LB 451 changes "hearing aid dispensers and fitters" to "licensed hearing instrument specialists not holding licenses as audiologists." The change would exclude dually licensed audiologists/hearing instrument specialists from membership on the board.

Explanation of amendments:

The committee amendment (AM 575) changes membership of the Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists (board). The amendment requires that at least one of the three licensed hearing instrument specialists on the board may not hold a license as an audiologist. The amendment permits hearing aid fitter and dealers to practice under their existing license

until it expires.

Tim Gay, Chairperson