



**State of Tennessee**  
**PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 291**

**SENATE BILL NO. 1262**

**By Watson**

Substituted for: House Bill No. 1173

By Harry Brooks, Tindell, Montgomery, Armstrong, John DeBerry, McManus

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 7, Part 27, relative to hearing aids.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 7, Part 27, is amended by deleting the part in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

49-7-2701.

(a) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, state public colleges and universities are permitted to establish and operate clinical and dispensary programs in speech pathology, speech therapy and audiology for the purpose of educating students and generating financial support necessary to operate and make necessary improvements to those programs.

(b) It is not the intent of the general assembly for such programs to compete directly with private hearing device retailers. Hearing centers operated and governed by public institutions of higher education shall not expand to operate satellite centers for the purpose of selling hearing aids, and shall not advertise the sale of hearing aids through any form of mass media, including, but not limited to, newspapers, magazines, billboards, phone directories, television, radio or Internet, or through mass mailings, either printed or electronic. Such clinics and programs are permitted to receive patient referrals, to treat patients wishing to receive services from the college or university and to dispense hearing aids to such patients.

(c) Each public institution of higher education operating a hearing center shall, by September 15 of each year, provide a written report to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission and the Education Committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate. The report shall contain the following information relative to the prior year:

- (A) The number of patients served;
- (B) The number of patient-contact hours for which students received credit;
- (C) The number of billed patient hours;
- (D) The number of hearing aids dispensed to patients; and
- (E) The revenues from clinical and dispensing operations.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011, the public welfare requiring it.

SENATE BILL NO. 1262

PASSED: May 16, 2011

  
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RON RAMSEY  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

  
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BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 27<sup>th</sup> day of May 2011

  
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BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR