Legislation of Telecoils and related information

Summaries, key texts, and hyperlink references

Revision Summary

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<td>6/24/19, 7/21/19</td>
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<td>3/11/20</td>
<td>Added “In progress” legislation and “Building/public transp. terminals-loop” category</td>
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<td>5/17/20</td>
<td>• New sections: media mentions, position statements, table of contents, Revision summary</td>
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<td>• Updated Washington info, CA link</td>
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Suggestions, additions, and corrections welcomed. Contact GITHLinfo@hearingloss.org

Compiled by W. Whyman

Table of Contents

Legislation Summary, by Categories ............................................................................................................. 2
Legislation Map Status, by State ................................................................................................................... 3
List of State Actions .................................................................................................................................... 4
  PASSED LEGISLATION ................................................................................................................................. 4
  IN PROGRESS LEGISLATION ........................................................................................................................ 11
  FAILED LEGISLATION ................................................................................................................................. 13
  UNKNOWN LEGISLATION .............................................................................................................................. 14
Position statements .................................................................................................................................... 14
Media Mentions............................................................................................................................................. 15
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legislation status</th>
<th>ALS components</th>
<th>Miscellaneous</th>
<th>Buildings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>In progress</td>
<td>Failed</td>
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<td>telecoil</td>
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List of State Actions

Adapted from


PASSED LEGISLATION

**Arizona** 36-1909. Bill of sale; requirements
2007
http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/ars/36/01909.htm&Title=36&DocType=ARS
Tag: telecoil

“A bill of sale shall contain language that verifies that the client has been informed about audio switch technology, including benefits such as increased access to telephones and assistive listening devices. If the hearing device purchased by the client has audio switch technology, the client shall be informed of the proper use of the technology. The client shall be informed that an audio switch is also referred to as a telecoil, t-coil or t-switch.”

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**California**
2018
Tag: building-assistive listening system

State of California Department of General Services
Division of The State Architect.
This advisory manual includes provisions contained in the 2019 California Building Code published on July 1, 2019, effective January 1, 2020
https://www.dgs.ca.gov/DSA/Resources/Page-Content/Resources-List-Folder/Access-Compliance-Reference-Materials

Several specifications, including:
- An assistive listening system shall be provided in assembly areas, including conference and meeting rooms.
- Each assembly area required by Section 11B-219 to provide assistive listening systems shall provide signs informing patrons of the availability of the assistive listening.
- Permanently installed assistive-listening systems are required in areas if (1) they accommodate at least 50 persons or if they have audio-amplification systems, and (2) they have fixed seating. If portable assistive-listening systems are used for conference or meeting rooms, the system may serve more than one room. An adequate number of electrical outlets or other
supplementary wiring necessary to support a portable assistive-listening system shall be provided.

COlorado 2012
City of Fort Collins-Building Design & Construction Standards. October 1, 2013; Edited: February 5, 2019
Tags: building-loop

49.03COORDINATION D.
In any space over 1,000 square feet that is open for public meeting and wired with a public address system, a review should be completed to see if hearing loops should be added to the scope of the project. If loops are needed, an outside contractor will be brought in by the design team and/or general contractor for the design and installation.

Delaware HB 402
2016
http://delcode.delaware.gov/title24/c037/sc01/index.shtml
Tag: telecoil

This bill authorizes the Board of Speech/Language Pathologists, Audiologists and Hearing Aid Dispensers to establish requirements for hearing aid dispensers and audiologists to provide notification and written information to potential customers at the time of the initial exam for fitting a hearing aid of the operation and benefits of telecoil technology.

Establish requirements for licensed hearing aid dispenser and licensed audiologist to:

a. At the time of the initial examination for fitting and sale of a hearing aid, to notify the prospective purchaser or client of the operation and benefits of telecoil, also known as "t" coil, or "t" switch technology, in using a hearing aid with "hearing loop" technology; and

b. Provide written information explaining telecoil and its uses, including increased access to telephones, and communication with businesses and in the community, and noninvasive access to assistive listening systems.

Florida
1994
https://www.flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2012/484.0501
Tag: telecoil

At the time of the initial examination for fitting and sale of a hearing aid, the attending hearing aid specialist must notify the prospective purchaser or client of the benefits of telecoil, “t” coil, or “t” switch technology, including increased access to telephones and noninvasive access to assistive listening systems required under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.
Telecoil and beacon positioning systems. Requires the fire prevention and buildings safety commission (commission) to adopt rules requiring that a person performing new construction or any major alteration of an existing public address system in a Class 1 structure located in a first or second class city after June 30, 2020, must consider the installation of an audio frequency induction loop system (AFIL) and a beacon positioning system. Requires that the person performing new construction or any major alteration of an existing facility's public address system to solicit at least one bid for the installation of an AFIL and at least one bid for the installation of a beacon positioning system. Requires the commission to: (1) adopt standards of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) for installation, maintenance, and performance of audio frequency induction loop systems; and (2) develop standards for installation and maintenance of beacon positioning systems. Requires audiologists, individuals who hold a hearing aid dealer certificate of registration, and individuals who fit or dispense hearing aids while under the supervision and direction of an individual who holds a hearing aid dealer certificate of registration to provide information about telecoil and AFILs when fitting and dispensing hearing aids.

As added by P.L.200-2019, SEC.2.

Maryland SB 1014, HB 1192
2019
Bill Title: Assembly Areas - State-Funded Construction or Renovation - Assisted Listening System Requirement
http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.aspx?pid=billpage&stab=01&id=sb1014&tab=subject3&ys=2019rs
https://legiscan.com/MD/text/SB1014/2019
FOR the purpose of requiring certain recipients of State funds to install an assistive listening system in an assembly area during construction or renovation of the assembly area under certain circumstances; authorizing certain recipients of State funds to apply for a waiver from the requirement of a certain provision of this Act under certain circumstances; requiring that the waiver request include a certain description; establishing the Hearing Accessibility Advisory Board; requiring the Secretary of the Department of General Services to appoint the members of the Board; requiring the Board to consist of certain individuals and consumers; requiring the Board to consult with certain stakeholders, make certain recommendations, consider applications for waivers, and monitor compliance and investigate complaints; requiring the Department to adopt certain regulations; providing that this Act does not require certain agencies or recipients to retrofit existing facilities that are not undergoing renovation; authorizing a person to bring a civil action for a certain violation and under certain circumstances; prohibiting a person from being required to take any other action before bringing a certain civil action under certain circumstances; authorizing a court to grant certain relief, assess a certain civil penalty, and award certain other relief in a certain action; requiring that a certain court order include a certain requirement; defining certain terms; providing for the application of this Act; and generally relating to assistive listening systems in State-funded construction or renovation of assembly areas.

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Maryland, Baltimore County, Bill No. 2-20
2020
Bill Title: Assembly Areas - Capital Improvement and Capital Construction – Assistive Listening System Requirement
https://library.municode.com/md/baltimore_county/codes/code_of_ordinances
Tag: building-assistive listening system

Status: (Adopted) 1/6/20, Adopted Ordinance Not Yet Codified

FOR the purpose of requiring certain review of the membership on the Commission on Disabilities; requiring certain recipients of County funds to install an assistive listening system in an assembly area during construction or renovation of the assembly area under certain circumstances; requiring the Department of Permits, Approvals, and Inspections to adopt certain regulations, consider applications for waivers, and monitor compliance and investigate complaints; authorizing certain recipients of County funds to apply for a waiver from the requirement of a certain provision of this Act under certain circumstances; requiring that the waiver request include a certain description; providing that this Act does not require certain agencies or recipients to retrofit existing facilities that are not undergoing renovation; defining certain terms; providing for the application of this Act; and generally relating to assistive listening systems in County-funded construction or renovation of assembly areas.

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Minnesota S.F. No. 161
2017
https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/16C.054
Tags: building-loop, acoustics

Explanation about Minnesota's New Acoustics and Looping Law
- MNCDHH & stakeholders' next steps
- MNCDHH's responsibilities under this new law

December 4, 2017
https://mn.gov/deaf-commission/news/?id=1063-319758

Subdivision 1. Definition. For purposes of this section, "public gathering space" means a space that is constructed or renovated as part of the project: (1) that accommodates and is intended to be used for gatherings of 15 or more people; and (2) in which audible communications are integral to a use of the space.

Subd. 2. Accommodation for hard-of-hearing in state-funded capital projects. No commissioner or agency head may approve a contract or grant state funds for a capital improvement project to construct or renovate a public gatherings space in a building unless:

1. the project includes equipping the public gathering space, if the public gathering space has or will have a permanent audio-amplification system, with audio-induction loops to provide an electromagnetic signal for hearing aids and cochlear implants; and

2. the project includes meeting the American National Standards Institute Acoustical Performance Criteria, Design Requirements and Guidelines for Schools on maximum background noise level and reverberation times in the public gathering space.

New Mexico House Bill 0048
2019
Audiologist & Hearing Aid Seller Ethics Rules
Tag: assistive listening technology

Completed Legislative Action
Spectrum: Bipartisan Bill
Status: Passed on March 14 2019 - 100% progression
Action: 2019-03-14 - Signed by Governor - Chapter 100 - Mar. 28

Relating to health; requiring the speech-language pathology, audiology and hearing aid dispensing practices board to issue ethics rules requiring audiologists and hearing aid dispensers to educate purchasers about assistive listening technology and design options that are in accordance with latest standards.
Printed educational materials should include:
(2) Information about the advantages of purchasing and using the telecoil switch (t-switch).
(3) General information on assistive listening devices (ALDs), including a basic overview of the types of ALDs currently available and how ALDs may be used with hearing aids.
(4) A statement regarding the availability of support groups for people who are deaf and hard of hearing.

c) Training of consumers.
(1) The dispenser shall instruct new users of hearing aids on basic information about how to use the aid. This training should include, at a minimum, the following:
...use of the telecoil-switch;

(v) Infection control and New York State and Federal law, regulation and professional conduct for hearing aid dispensers. As a condition of renewing a hearing aid dispenser registration, each hearing aid dispenser shall successfully complete a total of 20 continuing education credits per registration period as set forth in section 794 of the General Business Law.
...at least one of the required credit hours shall be devoted to the subject of telecoil (t-coil) and other assistive listening devices.

(w) Infection control and New York State and Federal law, regulation and professional conduct for audiologists. As a condition of renewing a hearing aid dispenser registration, each audiologist who is registered as a hearing aid dispenser under General Business Law section 790(1)(b), shall successfully complete four continuing education credits relating to the dispensing of hearing aids as set forth in section 794 of the General Business Law.
...at least one of the required credit hours shall be devoted to the subject of telecoil (t-coil) and other assistive listening devices

**New York City**  
3/21/2017  
Requiring that all public meetings be held in facilities equipped with assistive listening systems.  
**tags: building-loop**

Certain capital projects with an estimated baseline construction cost of $950,000 or more involving the construction or reconstruction of one or more assembly areas shall be designed and constructed to include in at least one assembly area the installation of an induction loop assistive listening system or an alternative assistive listening system that has been determined by the mayor to be significantly more effective for the hard of hearing than an induction loop system. Each security, information, or reception desk used for the checking-in or screening of persons attending a meeting or event held in a looped assembly area shall be equipped with microloops...

**Rhode Island**  
2014  
Receipt required to be furnished to a person supplied with hearing aid.  
**tag: telecoil, receipt, assistive listening system**

Title 5 - Businesses and Professions  
Chapter 5-49 - Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters  
Section 5-49-3  

(d) The receipt shall contain language that verifies that the client has been informed about the benefits of audio switch technology, including increased access to telephones and assistive listening systems required under the "American with Disabilities Act of 1990", and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The client shall be informed that an audio switch is also referred to as a telecoil, t-coil or t-switch.

**Utah** H.B. 112  
2015  
Licensing  
https://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0112.html  
**tag: assistive listening systems**

2) A person licensed under this chapter who offers to sell a hearing aid to a consumer shall inform the consumer about hearing aids that work with assistive listening systems that are compliant with the ADA
Standards for Accessible Design adopted by the United States Department of Justice in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 3912101 et seq.

**Washington** SB 5210
2019
**Notifying purchasers of hearing instruments about uses and benefits of telecoil and Bluetooth technology.**
**tag: telecoil, Bluetooth**
- Completed Legislative Action
- Spectrum: Moderate Partisan Bill (Democrat 7-1)
- Status: Passed on April 29 2019 - 100% progression

5/2020. The Washington Speech and Hearing Board deleted the motion to adopt rules for implementing SB 5210 from the May Agenda

The legislature finds that approximately twenty percent of the population have hearing loss, including more than six hundred fifty thousand Washington state residents who have been diagnosed with hearing loss. The number is rising; the aging baby boomer generation is increasing age-related hearing loss exponentially, and hearing loss has increased among children and youth in the last decade. As these trends continue, telecoil technology has the potential to benefit more people, but only if consumers are made aware of the technology and its benefits. The legislature finds that the federal Americans with disabilities act of 1990 was amended in 2010 to require assistive listening systems in places of public assembly, served by a public address system, to be hearing aid compatible. Currently, the telecoil is the only component within a consumer hearing instrument that enables this mandated compatibility. Without a telecoil-enabled hearing instrument a person cannot effectively access mandated assistive listening systems. The legislature finds that Bluetooth technology is evolving, but it is still generally not suited for long range transmission in a large venue like an auditorium. To date, hearing aid Bluetooth technology does not meet compliance standards for assistive listening system requirements. Therefore, the legislature intends to increase consumer awareness of benefits and uses of the different types of hearing instruments and technologies.

**IN PROGRESS LEGISLATION**

**New Mexico** 2021
**Draft title: Relating to professional licensing; requiring the speech language pathology, audiology and hearing aid dispensing practices board to implement continuing education requirements, which shall include training in the use of certain assistive listening technology and devices.**
Contact: Loop New Mexico for draft
**Tags: building-loop**
**Status:** Will be introduced in the next session
Excerpt: adopt rules implementing continuing education requirements, which shall include, for audiologists and hearing aid dispensers, a minimum of two credit hours, every two years, in:
(1) assistive listening technology that meets the latest standards for accessible design, adopted by the United States department of justice, in accordance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended;
(2) other assistive listening devices; and
(3) services available from the commission for deaf and hard of hearing persons;
Under the bill, the Department of Administration may approve an exemption from the bill's requirement to install a hearing loop system under certain circumstances. DOA must do all of the following with respect to approved exemptions:

1. Create a notice and comment process for each approved exemption.
2. Consider available alternative measures in lieu of installation of a permanent hearing loop system.
3. Submit an annual report to the legislature and the Department of Health Services describing in detail each approved exemption, the reasons for the exemption, and the consideration and approval of alternative measures.

**FAILED LEGISLATION**

California ASSEMBLY BILL No. 1950
2016 failed


tags: telecoil, receipt

AB 1950, as introduced, Maienschein. Hearing aids: audio switch. Existing law, the Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists and Hearing Aid Dispensers Licensure Act, regulates the licensure of hearing aid dispensers and dispensing audiologists by the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers Board. The act makes it unlawful for a licensed hearing aid dispenser to fit or sell a hearing aid unless he or she first, among other duties, provides the purchaser with specified information. Existing law requires a licensed dispensing audiologist to, upon the consummation of a sale of a hearing aid, deliver to the purchaser a written receipt, containing specified information. Existing law makes the violation of these provisions a misdemeanor. This bill would make it unlawful for a licensed hearing aid dispenser to fit or sell a hearing aid unless first informing the purchaser of an audio switch, which may be referred to as a telecoil, t-coil, or t-switch, that increases access to a telephone and provides noninvasive access to assistive listening systems that are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The bill would require a licensed dispensing audiologist to do the same. By creating new requirements, the violation of which would be a crime, this bill would impose a state mandated local program

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement. This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Colorado House Bill 16-1366.
2016 failed

Hearing Aid Users Enhanced Protections
https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb16-1366

tag: communication options

The following section is excerpted from House Bill 16-1366 that proposed a significant number of changes and additions to existing law applicable to the dispensing of hearing aids that were not germane to the issue of telecoils.
The director shall adopt rules requiring licensees to explain to prospective and current hearing aid users the different communication options available via technological advances for different environments used by the hearing aid user.

IOWA  H.F. 2141
2018 failed
Act relating to telecoil assistive devices and providing applicability dates.
Tag: telecoil

New York
2017
Requires the provision of assistive listening systems in New York state public transportation terminals.
https://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?default_fld=&bn=A00517&term=2017&Summary=Y&Actions=Y&Text=Y&Committee%26nbspVotes=Y&Floor%26nbspVotes=Y
tags: building- assistive listening system

UNKNOWN LEGISLATION

Kansas
Kentucky
Nebraska – State's Commission for Deaf and HoH to be approached to propose legislation mandating telecoil counseling prior to dispensing of HAs.

Position statements

HLAA-national
Telecoils and Hearing Loops
HLAA supports the inclusion of telecoil technology in all hearing aids and cochlear implants as well as the installation of high quality, well-maintained hearing loop assistive listening systems in public spaces such as ticket counters, auditoriums, houses of worship, classrooms, theaters, concert halls, airports, train stations, and public transportation.
https://www.hearingloss.org/about-hlaa/position-papers/

Wisconsin
TeleCoils (T-Switch on Hearing Aids) Council Position Statement:
The WI Governor's Council for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind advocates for automatic inclusion of the T-coil option (also known as a telecoil, T-switch or Audiocoil) on all hearing instruments sold in the
state of Wisconsin unless omitted by documented, informed consent of the hearing aid purchaser at the initial examination for fitting and sale of a hearing aid.

The Council feels it is extremely important that, prior to selecting a hearing aid, every potential hearing aid purchaser in Wisconsin is informed & educated by their licensed hearing health professional about the benefits of t-coils for use with telephones, hearing loops & other assistive listening devices.

https://dhhcouncil.wisconsin.gov/councilactions.htm

Media Mentions

Arizona


“What made an Arizona lawmaker, who struggles to hear bill debates, cry.” Alia Beard Rau, The Republic | azcentral.com Published 10:02 p.m. MT Jan. 4, 2017 | Updated 11:11 a.m. MT Jan. 6, 2017

Rhode Island


http://www.cdhh.ri.gov/documents/events/loop-project-at-the-state-house-is-now-complete.pdf