SB1049 – New Update
State Hearing Aid Battery Tax

Why the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing is seeking to eliminate taxes on rechargeable batteries for hearing aids

Rechargeable Hearing Aid Battery Cost and the Tax Issue

Hearing aid rechargeable batteries range in cost from $12.50 to $30 each. Rechargeable cochlear implant batteries range in cost from $175 to $350

What is currently not taxed under Arizona Law relating to hearing aids

- Hearing aids and their accessories
- Hearing aid parts and attachments
- Ear molds for hearing aids

(Examples of other medical equipment not taxed)

- Oxygen tanks
- Oxygen for the tank
- Insulin
- Insulin syringes

Medically prescribed hearing aids cannot function without batteries, yet the batteries that power the hearing aids are taxed. Batteries are an integral component of these devices and should be exempted from sales tax.

2017 Arizona Statistics

- As of the 2010 census, 17% of the AZ population has a hearing loss
- In Arizona, there are over 1.1 million adults (aged 20+) with at least a 25db hearing loss in one or both ears
  - Of those we estimate 20-30,000 are culturally Deaf (culturally Deaf are people who share a similar set of values, norms, history, folklore and tradition, coupled with American Sign Language (ASL) and utilize ASL as their primary/preferred mode of communication)
- Nearly 2 out of 1000 babies in Arizona are born with hearing loss and over 90% of these children are born to parents who are hearing
- Conservatively, there are 739,000 older adults who have a hearing loss living in the state of Arizona.

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