

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 287

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Version: As introduced

Authors: Abeler and others

Subject: Health coverage of communication aids

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Overview

This bill requires private group health coverage to cover communication devices for children who have hearing loss due to a congenital abnormality.

Section

- 1** **Group policies.** Requires group coverage issued by for-profit insurers and health maintenance organizations (HMOs) to cover communication aids and devices, including hearing aids, for persons up to 18 years of age to compensate for hearing loss caused by congenital abnormality.
- 2** **Number three plan.** Adds the coverage required under section 1 to the requirements for being labeled a "qualified plan." One effect of this is that it requires that the Minnesota Comprehensive Health Association (MCHA) provide that benefit in its individual policies.
- 3** **Benefits.** Adds the coverage required under subdivision 1 to the minimum level of coverage permitted for coverage marketed to small employers.
- 4** **Effective date; application.** Makes this bill effective August 1, 2003, and apply to all plans issued or renewed on or after that date.