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Oct. 12, 2009

JONES LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO HEARING AIDS

AND CONSOLIDATE STATE BOARD FOR COMPLAINTS

SIGNED INTO LAW

(Sacramento) Last night the Governor signed into law Assembly Bill 1535, authored by Assemblymember Dave Jones (D-Sacramento), which makes significant changes to state laws related to hearing aid dispensers.

The bill benefits consumers by allowing audiologists to sell hearing aids under their audiology license, instead of requiring audiologists to obtain a second hearing aid dispenser certificate, or requiring consumers to visit a separate hearing aid dispenser to purchase a hearing aid.

The bill also eliminates the Hearing Aid Dispensers Bureau and combines those functions with the Speech Language-Pathology and Audiology Board. This consolidation also reduces waste and duplication by consolidating two state boards into one to investigate complaints about hearing professionals.

“Californians will benefit from one-stop shopping for hearing aids,” said Jones. “And AB 1535 also eliminates needless bureaucracy by providing only one state agency for complaints about hearing tests and hearing aids.

The new law takes effect January 1, 2010.