

Union Calendar No. 398

100TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 2213

[Report No. 100-674]

To require certain telephones to be hearing aid compatible.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 29, 1987

Mr. MAVBOULES (for himself, Mr. MABKEY, Mr. SWIFT, Mr. ROYBAL, Mr. SYNAR, Mr. PRICE of Illinois, Mr. HAWKINS, Ms. OAKAR, Mr. PEPPER, Mr. GRAY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LAFALCE, Mr. DOWNEY of New York, Mr. WALGREN, Mr. LELAND, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. ECKART, Mr. SLATTERY, Mrs. KENNELLY, Mr. WEISS, Mr. MCKINNEY, Mr. CROCKETT, Mrs. BYRON, Mr. VENTO, Mr. BATES, Mrs. BENTLEY, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. EDWARDS of California, Mr. HERTEL, Mr. FAZIO, Mr. FRANK, Mr. DWYER of New Jersey, Mr. KANJOESKI, Mr. FROST, Mr. DYSON, Mr. DYMALLY, Mr. ERDBEICH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BIAGGI, Mr. MBRAZEK, and Mr. LEHMAN of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

JULY 21, 1987

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Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

A BILL

To require certain telephones to be hearing aid compatible.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
 2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
 3 *That this Act may be cited as the “Hearing Aid Compati-*
 4 *bility Act of 1987”.*

5 SEC. 2. (a) Subject to the provisions of subsection (b), all
 6 telephones sold, rented, or distributed by any other means in
 7 the United States shall be hearing aid compatible, as defined
 8 in regulations promulgated by the Federal Communications
 9 Commission.

10 (b) The provisions of subsection (a) shall not apply to
 11 any telephone—

12 (1) that is manufactured before the effective date
 13 of this Act; or

1 (2) which is not required to be registered under
2 47 CFR 68.

3 (e) The provisions of this Act shall be effective six
4 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

5 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

6 *This Act may be cited as the "Hearing Aid Compatibil-*
7 *ity Act of 1988".*

8 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

9 *The Congress finds that—*

10 (1) *to the fullest extent made possible by technolo-*
11 *gy and medical science, hearing-impaired persons*
12 *should have equal access to the national telecommuni-*
13 *cations network;*

14 (2) *present technology provides effective coupling*
15 *of telephones to hearing aids used by some severely*
16 *hearing-impaired persons for communicating by voice*
17 *telephone;*

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19 *and hearing aid technologies promise greater access in*
20 *the future; and*

21 (4) *universal telephone service for hearing-im-*
22 *paired persons will lead to greater employment oppor-*
23 *tunities and increased productivity.*

1 **SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS.**

2 (a) *HEARING AID COMPATIBILITY REQUIRE-*
3 *MENTS.—Subsection (b) of section 710 of the Communica-*
4 *tions Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 610(b)) is amended to read as*
5 *follows:*

6 “(b)(1) *Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3),*
7 *the Commission shall require that—*

8 “(A) *all essential telephones, and*

9 “(B) *all telephones manufactured in the United*
10 *States (other than for export), or imported for use in*
11 *the United States, more than one year after the date of*
12 *enactment of the Hearing Aid Compatibility Act of*
13 *1988,*

14 *provide internal means for effective use with hearing aids*
15 *that are designed to be compatible with telephones which meet*
16 *established technical standards for hearing aid compatibility.*

17 “(2) *The initial regulations prescribed by the Commis-*
18 *sion under paragraph (1) of this subsection after the date of*
19 *enactment of the Hearing Aid Compatibility Act of 1988*
20 *shall exempt from the requirements established pursuant to*
21 *paragraph (1)(B) of this subsection only—*

22 “(A) *telephones used with public mobile services;*

23 “(B) *telephones used with private radio services;*

24 “(C) *cordless telephones; and*

25 “(D) *secure telephones.*

1 *The exemption provided by such regulations to cordless tele-*
2 *phones shall not apply with respect to cordless telephones*
3 *manufactured or imported more than three years after the*
4 *date of enactment of the Hearing Aid Compatibility Act of*
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6 “(3) *The Commission may, upon the application of any*
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20 *consider the effect on hearing-impaired individuals of grant-*
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22 *and determine the continuing need for any waiver granted*
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24 “(4) *For purposes of this subsection—*

1 “(A) the term ‘essential telephones’ means only
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4 use by persons using such hearing aids;

5 “(B) the term ‘public mobile services’ means air-
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7 communications services, offshore radio, rural radio
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9 common carrier radio communication services covered
10 by part 27 of title 47 of the Code of Federal Regula-
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12 “(C) the term ‘private radio services’ means pri-
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15 rules as private radio services; and

16 “(D) the term ‘secure telephones’ means tele-
17 phones that are approved by the United States Govern-
18 ment for the transmission of classified or sensitive
19 voice communications.”

20 (b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 710(f) of the
21 Communications Act of 1934 is amended by striking out the
22 second sentence and inserting the following: “The Commis-
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24 the amendments made by the Hearing Aid Compatibility Act
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2D SESSION

H. R. 2213

[Report No. 100-674]

A BILL

To require certain telephones to be hearing aid
compatible.

JUNE 7, 1988

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee
of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and
ordered to be printed