

# Legislation and Rulemaking: Telecoils, ALS, and Buildings

Summaries, key texts, and hyperlink references

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## Revision Summary

Date	Changes
12/9/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Added NY, MA</li></ul>
10/19/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Added NJ</li></ul>
3/12/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Add a second map for buildings</li></ul>
12/14/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Update links, added instructions on finding info</li></ul>
5/17/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>New sections: media mentions, position statements, table of contents, Revision summary</li><li>Updated Washington info, CA link</li></ul>
3/11/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Added “In progress” legislation and “Building/public transp. terminals-loop” category</li></ul>
6/24/19, 7/21/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Compiled</li></ul>

Suggestions, additions, and corrections are welcomed. Contact [GITHLinfo@hearingloss.org](mailto:GITHLinfo@hearingloss.org)

Compiled by W. Whyman

## Legislation Summary, by Categories

2 cities, 1 county, 20 states

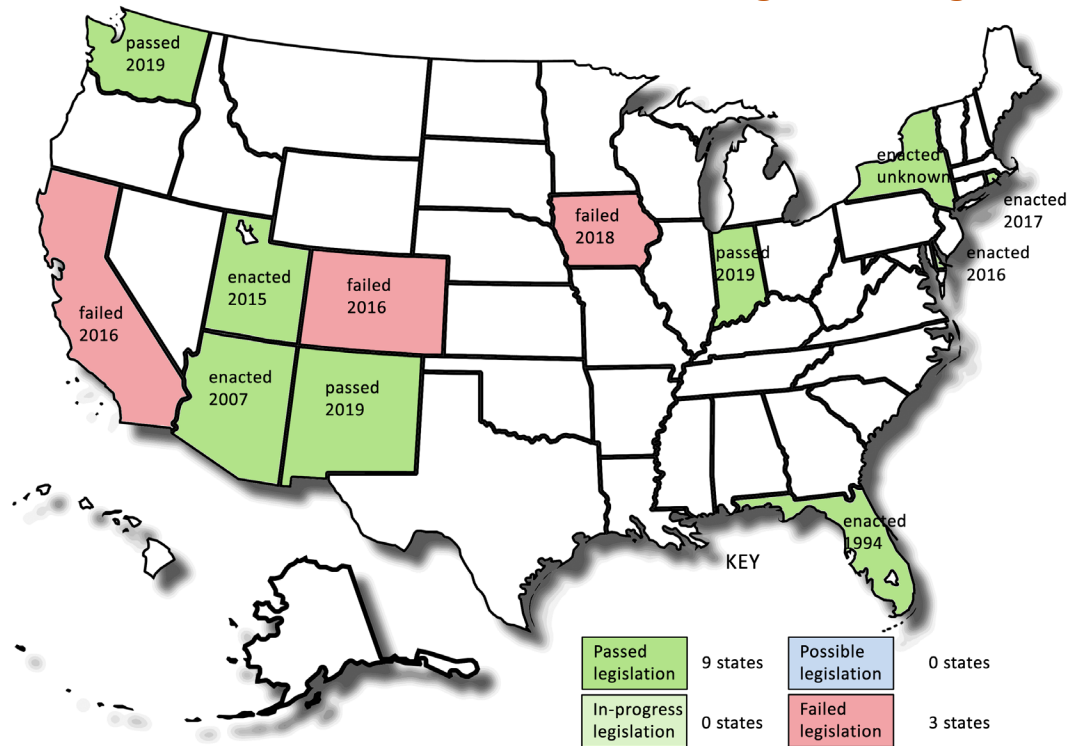
	Legislation status				ALS components			Miscellaneous				Buildings			
	Passed	In progress	Failed	Unknown	Telecoil	Assistive listening technology	Communication options	Receipt	Educational materials	Support groups	Continuing education	Building-acoustics	Building-loop	Building/public transp. Terminals-loop	Building-assistive listening system
TOTALS	16	3	5	3	9	6	1	2	1	1	1	1	7	3	3
<a href="#">Arizona</a>	x				x										
<a href="#">California</a>	x														x
<a href="#">California</a>			F		F			F							
<a href="#">Colorado</a>			F				F								
<a href="#">Colorado-City of Fort Collins</a>	x												x		
<a href="#">Delaware</a>	x				x										
<a href="#">Florida</a>	x				x										
<a href="#">Indiana</a>	x				x										
<a href="#">Indiana</a>													F		
<a href="#">Iowa</a>			F		F										
<a href="#">Kansas</a>				x											
<a href="#">Kentucky</a>				x											
<a href="#">Maryland</a>	x														x
<a href="#">Maryland, Baltimore Cty</a>	x														x
<a href="#">Massachusetts</a>													P		
<a href="#">Minnesota</a>	x											x	x		
<a href="#">Nebraska</a>				x											
<a href="#">New Mexico</a>	x					x									
<a href="#">New Mexico</a>		P				P									
<a href="#">New Jersey</a>		P											P		
<a href="#">New York</a>	x				x	x			x	x	x				
<a href="#">New York</a>			F											F	
<a href="#">New York</a>		P												P	
<a href="#">New York</a>													P		
<a href="#">New York City</a>	x												x		
<a href="#">Rhode Island</a>	x				x	x		x							
<a href="#">Utah</a>	x					x									
<a href="#">Washington</a>	x				x										
<a href="#">Washington</a>	x					x									
<a href="#">Wisconsin</a>			F										F		

### Key

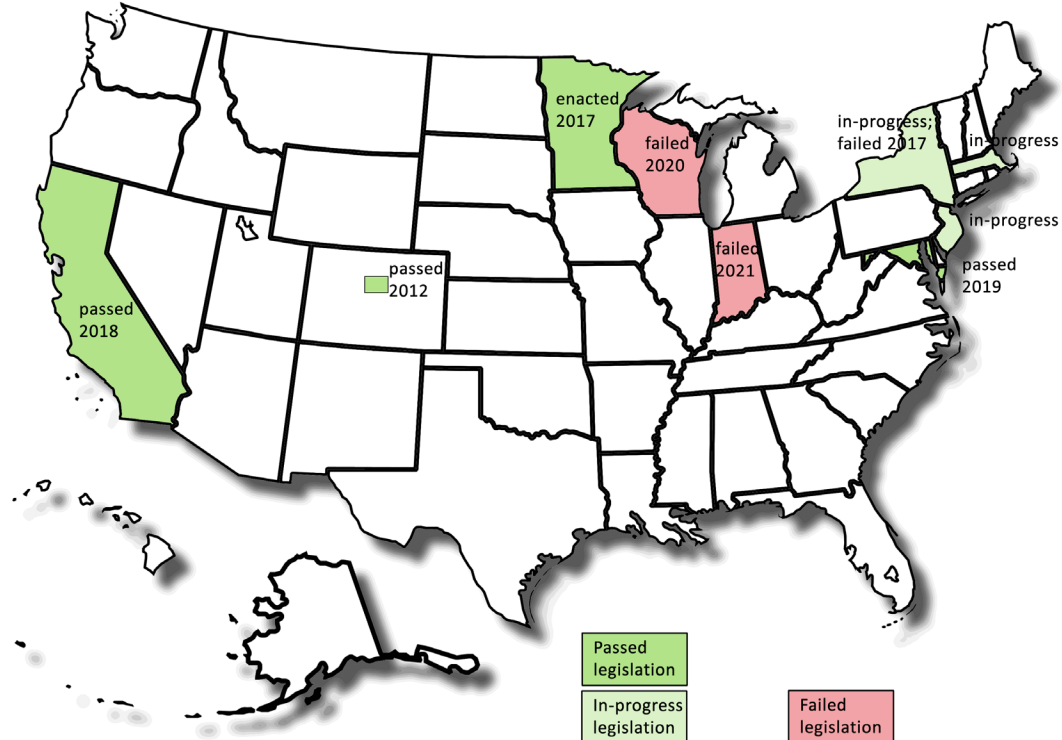
Red F = failed

Blue P = in progress

## Consumer: Telecoils and Assistive Listening Technologies



## Buildings



## List of State Actions

### PASSED LEGISLATION

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Arizona 36-1909. Bill of sale; requirements  
2007

<https://www.azleg.gov/ars/36/01909.htm>

Tags: 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

<https://www.dgs.ca.gov/DSA/Resources/Page-Content/Resources-List-Folder/Access-Compliance-Reference-Materials>

Tags: building-assistive listening system

2019 California Access Compliance Advisory Reference Manual, pp. 19, 119, 122, 123, 271, 280, 281, 312  
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

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.

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Colorado 2012

City of Fort Collins-Building Design & Construction Standards. October 1, 2013; Edited: February 5, 2019  
Page 396

<https://www.fcgov.com/opserv/pdf/building-design-standards.pdf?1554850706>

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.

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Delaware HB 402

2016

TITLE 24

Professions and Occupations

CHAPTER 37. Speech/Language Pathologists, Audiologists, and Hearing Aid Dispensers

Web document – use your computer to search for key words such as “telecoil” and “assistive listening”

<http://delcode.delaware.gov/title24/c037/sc01/index.shtml>

Tags: 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.

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Florida

1994

Title XXXII REGULATION OF PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS

Chapter 484 DISPENSING OF OPTICAL DEVICES AND HEARING AIDS

SECTION 0501

Minimal procedures and equipment.

Web document – use your computer to search for key words such as “telecoil”

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2012/484.0501>

Tags: 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.

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Indiana HB 1113

### Telecoil and Beacon Positioning Systems

2019

<https://legiscan.com/IN/bill/HB1113/2019>

Tags: building-loop, telecoil

Completed Legislative Action

Spectrum: Bipartisan Bill

Status: Passed on May 2 2019 - 100% progression

Action: 2019-05-02 - Public Law 200

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.

<https://law.justia.com/codes/indiana/2020/title-25/article-20/chapter-1/section-25-20-1-27/>

#### IC 25-20-1-27 Information about telecoil and audio frequency induction loop systems

Sec. 27. Before fitting or dispensing a hearing aid, an individual who:

- (1) holds a temporary or valid hearing aid dealer certificate of registration; or
- (2) fits or dispenses hearing aids while under the supervision and direction of an individual who holds a temporary or valid hearing aid dealer certificate of registration;

shall provide oral and written information explaining telecoil and audio frequency induction loop systems, how they operate, and their uses, including increasing access to telephones and assistive listening systems that comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), any amendments and regulations relating to the Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (28 CFR 35.101 et seq. and 28 CFR 36.101 et seq.).

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

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**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>

<https://legiscan.com/MD/text/HB1192/2019>

**Tags: building-assistive listening system**

**Status:** (Passed) **2019**-04-30 - Approved by the Governor - Chapter 336

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**

ARTICLE 10. - FINANCE TITLE 2. - PURCHASING SUBTITLE 5. - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTS AND PROFESSIONAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SERVICES CONTRACTS

§ 10-2-505. - ASSISTIVE LISTENING SYSTEM.

[https://library.municode.com/md/baltimore\\_county/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances](https://library.municode.com/md/baltimore_county/codes/code_of_ordinances) search for “assisted listening” or a direct link below

[https://library.municode.com/md/baltimore\\_county/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances?nodeId=ART10FI\\_TIT2\\_PU\\_SUBTITLE\\_5CAIMCOPRCAIMSECO\\_S10-2-505ASLISY](https://library.municode.com/md/baltimore_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=ART10FI_TIT2_PU_SUBTITLE_5CAIMCOPRCAIMSECO_S10-2-505ASLISY)

Tags: building-assistive listening system

Status: (Adopted) 1/6/20

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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

**Accommodation for Hard-Of-Hearing In State-Funded Capital Projects.**

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/16C.054>

Tags: building-loop, acoustics

<https://casetext.com/statute/minnesota-statutes/chapters-16a-16e-administration-and-finance/chapter-16c-state-procurement/section-16c054-accommodation-for-hard-of-hearing-in-state-funded-capital-projects>

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 gathering 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.

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New Mexico House Bill 0048

2019

**Audiologist & Hearing Aid Seller Ethics Rules**

<https://legiscan.com/NM/bill/HB48/2019>

Tags: 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.

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New York

unknown year

**Licensing**

pp. 19 (or search for “telecoil”, etc.)

<https://www.dos.ny.gov/licensing/lawbooks/HearDispatch.pdf>

Tags: telecoil, educational materials, assistive listening devices, support groups

NYS Department of State Division of Licensing Service

Registration of Hearing Aid Dispensers (June2016)

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;

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## New York

Unknown year

### Licensing

[https://govt.westlaw.com/nycrr/Document/I89866388c22411ddb9e5b2e06f1b2e15?viewType=FullText&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&contextData=\(sc.Default\)](https://govt.westlaw.com/nycrr/Document/I89866388c22411ddb9e5b2e06f1b2e15?viewType=FullText&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&contextData=(sc.Default))

### Tags: continuing education

Official Compilation of Codes, Rules And Regulations Of The State Of New York

Title 19. Department of State

Chapter V. Division of Licensing Services

Subchapter H. Hearing Aid Dispensers

Part 192. Hearing Aid Dispensers

19 CRR-NY 192.7

192.7 Continuing education.

(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 device s

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## New York City

3/21/2017

### Requiring that all public meetings be held in facilities equipped with assistive listening systems.

<https://legistar.council.nyc.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=2404422&GUID=4E7C6944-6790-42FB-816C-03CFFD29AFE9&Options=&Search=>

### 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...

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## Rhode Island

2014

### **Receipt required to be furnished to a person supplied with hearing aid.**

<https://law.justia.com/codes/rhode-island/2014/title-5/chapter-5-49/section-5-49-3/>

Tags: 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.

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## Utah H.B. 112

2015

### **Licensing**

<https://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0112.html>

Tags: 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. 39 12101 et seq.

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## Washington SB 5210

2019

### **Notifying purchasers of hearing instruments about uses and benefits of telecoil and Bluetooth technology.**

<https://legiscan.com/WA/bill/SB5210/2019>

Tags: telecoil, Bluetooth

Completed Legislative Action  
Spectrum: Moderate Partisan Bill (Democrat 7-1)  
Status: Passed on April 29 2019 - 100% progression  
Action: 2019-04-29 - Effective date 7/28/2019.

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.

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Washington Rulemaking 20-19-146  
2020

**Notifying purchasers of hearing instruments about hearing assistive technologies**

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/2300/2020/CR102-HearingSpeechConsumerNotif.pdf>

Tags: telecoil, Bluetooth

Defines "hearing assistive technologies" and establish consumer notification requirements regarding those technologies prior to the purchase of hearing device. By requiring patient notification, the legislature intends to increase consumer awareness of benefits and uses of the different types of hearing instruments and their associated technologies, including compatibility with assistive listening systems.

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## IN PROGRESS LEGISLATION

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Massachusetts Senate Bill 1969

2023

**Concerning induction loop listening system installation**

<https://legiscan.com/IN/bill/HB1307/2021>

Tags: Building-loop

For legislation relative to induction loop listening system installation

The owner of an area of public assembly or service shall maintain an induction loop listening system, and shall post prominently-visible permanently-mounted signage to indicate to visitors that the induction loop listening system is available. This requirement shall apply when, in association with a building permit application that is initially submitted following the effective date of this section, an area of public assembly or service is newly constructed or undergoes a substantial renovation. Following initial installation, an owner of an area of public assembly or service for whom this section applies shall, on a biennial basis, complete a self certification form and submit the form to the applicable code enforcing agency, attesting that the induction loop listening system continues to be functional.

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New Jersey A1487

2022-2023

**Requires induction loop listening system installation in certain buildings open to public upon new construction or substantial renovation.**

<https://legiscan.com/NJ/bill/A1487/2022>

<https://legiscan.com/NJ/bill/S286/2022>

Tags: Building-loop

This bill requires the installation of induction loop listening systems in certain public spaces upon new construction or renovation to assist those with hearing loss.

Induction loop listening system installations would be required in a newly constructed area of public assembly or service. The bill would also require installation of the system during renovations costing more than \$40,000. Additionally, the bill would require the posting of signage to indicate to visitors that the induction loop listening system is available.

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New Mexico HB 191

2022

**Licensing**

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/22%20Regular/bills/house/HB0191.HTML>

Tags: assistive listening technology

SECTION 57. c. adopt a code of ethics that includes rules requiring audiologists and hearing aid dispensers, at the time of the initial examination for possible sale and fitting of a hearing aid if a hearing loss is determined, to inform each prospective purchaser about hearing aid options that can provide a direct connection between the hearing aid and assistive listening systems. These rules shall be in accordance with 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;

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New York Bill No A01006, AB2196

2019-2020, 2021, 2022

**Bill Title: Requires the provision of assistive listening systems in New York state public transportation terminals.**

<https://legiscan.com/NY/bill/A02196/2021>

[https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?default\\_fld=%250D%250A&bn=A1006&term=&Summary=Y&Actions=Y&Votes=Y&Memo=Y&Text=Y](https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?default_fld=%250D%250A&bn=A1006&term=&Summary=Y&Actions=Y&Votes=Y&Memo=Y&Text=Y)

Tags: Building/public transportation terminals-loop

## 2021

Requires the provision of assistive listening systems in New York state public transportation terminals.

**2019 Status:** referred to transportation

This bill would require an audio induction loop system to be installed in all public transportation terminals. The installation of these loops would allow those who need the technology to use it discreetly, while receiving louder and clearer sound.

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New York Bill No AB3183

2021, 2022

**pre-arranged for-hire vehicle transportation services and the maximization of universal design and accessibility by persons with disabilities.**

<https://legiscan.com/NY/bill/A03183/2021>

Tags: assistive listening system

is equipped with an assistive listening system for persons with hearing impairments that is connected with any intercom, video or audio system, when such a system is installed;

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New York Bill No A06432, S07019

2023

**Requires public buildings which are or contain an area of public assembly or service to have equipped and installed an induction loop listening system for use by persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.**

<https://legiscan.com/NY/bill/A06432/2023>

<https://legiscan.com/NY/bill/S07019/2023>

**Tags: Building-assistive listening system**

Requires public buildings which are or contain an area of public assembly or service to have equipped and installed an induction loop listening system for use by persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.

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## FAILED LEGISLATION

**California** ASSEMBLY BILL No. 1950

2016 failed

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: yes.

[http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/15-16/bill/asm/ab\\_1901-1950/ab\\_1950\\_bill\\_20160212\\_introduced.pdf](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/15-16/bill/asm/ab_1901-1950/ab_1950_bill_20160212_introduced.pdf)

**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.

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**Colorado** House Bill 16-1366

2016 failed

**Hearing Aid Users Enhanced Protections**

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb16-1366>

Tags: communication options

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.

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Indiana HB1307

2021

**Assistance for the hearing impaired.**

<https://legiscan.com/IN/bill/HB1307/2021>

Tags: Building-loop, Masks

Assistance for the hearing impaired. Requires the fire prevention and building safety commission (commission) to adopt rules requiring the installation of assistive listening systems that provide a wireless direct connection to the listener, such as audio frequency induction loop systems (AFILs), and beacon positioning systems in Class 1 structures located in a first or second class city. (Under current law, the commission is required to adopt rules requiring that a person must consider the installation of AFILs and beaconing position systems.) Provides that if an owner, operator, or employee of a retail establishment wears a face mask while interacting with customers during a public health emergency, an owner, operator or employee must, upon request, wear a face mask that is transparent to allow for lip reading. Provides that a customer may file a complaint with the local health department. Provides that a local health department may issue a letter of reprimand to the retail establishment if it receives more than five complaints.

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Iowa H.F. 2141

2018 failed

**Act relating to telecoil assistive devices and providing applicability dates.**

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=HF%202141&ga=87>

Tag: telecoil

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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](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



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**Wisconsin** 2019 Senate BILL 601, 2019 Assembly BILL 615  
2019-2020

**Bill Title: Relating to: installation of hearing loop technology in certain new and renovated state buildings and granting rule-making authority.**

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2019/related/proposals/sb601>

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2019/related/proposals/ab615>

**Tags:** building-loop

**Status:**

- 11/27/2019 Sen.: Read first time and referred to Committee on Government Operations, Technology and Consumer Protection
- 11/15/2019 Asm.: Read first time and referred to Committee on State Affairs

Under this bill, each space that is constructed or renovated in a building that is owned, leased, or occupied by the state must be equipped with a hearing loop system if the space is intended to be used for gatherings of 15 or more people and audible communications are integral to a use of the space. The bill defines a “hearing loop system” as an assistive listening technology that consists of a physical loop system that generates a magnetic field in the looped area and transmits signals directly to telecoils in hearing aids, cochlear implants, and other listening devices.

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.

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## 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.

<http://www.hlaaomaha.org/news/> 2016 Using your computer search for “telecoil”

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## 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:

Using your computer, search for “telecoil”

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://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/dhhcouncil/actions.htm>

## Media Mentions

### Arizona

“New Hearing Loop In Arizona Legislature To Help Members, Visitors Who Are Hard Of Hearing.” KJZZ 91.5. Includes audio clip (4:38). By Annika Cline. December 20, 2016.

<http://kjzz.org/content/410264/new-hearing-loop-arizona-legislature-help-members-visitors-who-are-hard-hearing>

“Arizona Legislature Approves Budget for First in Nation Assistive Technology for House, Senate.” HMA Public Relations. May 13, 2016

<https://hmapr.com/client-news/arizona-legislature-approves-budget-for-first-in-nation-assistive-technology-for-house-senate/>

“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

<http://www.azcentral.com/story/news/politics/legislature/2017/01/05/arizona-legislature-opens-door-people-hearing-loss/95757902/>

### Rhode Island

“New audio system at State House aids hearing impaired.” Jamestown Press. December 22, 2016  
<https://www.jamestownpress.com/articles/new-audio-system-at-state-house-aids-hearing-impaired/>

“General Assembly session to convene Tuesday in renovated chambers.” Press Release. January 2, 2020.  
[http://www.rilegislature.gov/pressrelease/\\_layouts/RIL.PressRelease.ListStructure/Forms/DisplayForm.aspx?List=c8baae31-3c10-431c-8dcd-9dbbe21ce3e9&ID=370648&randId=0.7484444259514256](http://www.rilegislature.gov/pressrelease/_layouts/RIL.PressRelease.ListStructure/Forms/DisplayForm.aspx?List=c8baae31-3c10-431c-8dcd-9dbbe21ce3e9&ID=370648&randId=0.7484444259514256)

“The Loop Project at the State House Is Now Complete: Timeline: 2016-2019.” 4-page whitepaper with photos. Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. N.d.  
<http://www.cdhh.ri.gov/documents/events/loop-project-at-the-state-house-is-now-complete.pdf>

## References

Adapted from

Letters: Comments on State Telecoil Legislation. The Hearing Review. Online Published on March 26, 2019. By Robert Bishton, BC-HIS, Hear We Are LLC/Second Sense Hearing Network, Rome, New York  
<http://www.hearingreview.com/2019/03/letters-comments-state-telecoil-legislation/>

Telecoil And Related Legislation Status. Updated 4 May 2019 by Loop New Mexico  
[http://www.loopnm.com/Legislation\\_Examples.pdf](http://www.loopnm.com/Legislation_Examples.pdf)