

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2007**

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**SENATE BILL 1644\*  
Corrected Copy 5/21/08**

Short Title: DHHS to Study Older Adult Hearing Loss. (Public)

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Sponsors: Senators Malone, Dorsett, Forrester; Albertson, Atwater, Berger of Franklin, Brunstetter, Foriest, Jones, Nesbitt, Purcell, Stevens, and Swindell.

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Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

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May 20, 2008

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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2 AN ACT TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN  
3 SERVICES TO STUDY ISSUES RELATING TO HEARING LOSS IN OLDER  
4 ADULTS IN NORTH CAROLINA AS RECOMMENDED BY THE STUDY  
5 COMMISSION ON AGING.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.(a)** The Department of Health and Human Services, Division of  
8 Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, shall study the impact of hearing loss on  
9 North Carolina's older adult population. The study shall examine the following:

- 10 (1) The availability of and access to qualified professionals for diagnosis  
11 and treatment.  
12 (2) The availability of and access to hearing aid purchase assistance  
13 programs for low-income individuals.  
14 (3) Developing an inventory of adaptive technology options available to  
15 assist older adults with hearing loss.  
16 (4) Resources and programs available in other states.

17 **SECTION 1.(b)** In response to the study authorized in this section, the  
18 Department of Health and Human Services shall present findings and recommendations  
19 to the Study Commission on Aging on or before November 1, 2009.

20 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.