



2007 ASSEMBLY BILL 912

March 5, 2008 – Introduced by Representatives NYGREN, KRAMER and VUKMIR.
Referred to Committee on Health and Healthcare Reform.

1 **AN ACT** *to create* 49.471 (11r) of the statutes; **relating to:** providing coverage
2 of hearing aids and cochlear implants under BadgerCare Plus and granting
3 rule-making authority.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

BadgerCare Plus (BC+) is a Medical Assistance (MA) program that was approved in the biennial budget act. BC+, which will be administered by the Department of Health and Family Services, provides health care benefits under two different plans, depending on the basis for a recipient's eligibility, to recipients who satisfy financial and nonfinancial eligibility criteria. One plan provides the same benefits that are provided under the regular MA program. The other plan, called the Benchmark Plan, provides comprehensive benefits that are specified in the statute.

This bill provides that, beginning on January 1, 2009, BC+ will cover hearing aids and cochlear implants for any child under the age of 18 years who is a state resident, who has been certified as deaf or hearing impaired by a physician or a licensed audiologist, and who: is not eligible for the BC+ plan providing the same benefits as under the regular MA program. Those benefits include coverage for hearing aids and cochlear implants.

For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

