

A1487 and S286 Induction Loop Assistive Listening Systems Legislation Accessibility for People with Hearing Loss in Places of Public Accommodation

Quick Overview of the Legislation

Requires Induction Loop Assistive Listening Systems in new construction and renovations for

- Meeting rooms and auditoriums - including Medical Facilities
- Countertop Applications - including Pharmacies and Information Desks

Induction Loop Legislation A1487 and S286 was introduced in January 2022

https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2022/A1500/1487_11.PDF

https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2022/S0500/286_11.PDF

What are Induction Loop Systems (also referred to as Hearing Loops)?

- Induction Loop assistive listening systems allow people with hearing aids and cochlear implants to turn on their “t-coil” settings and hear whatever is spoken into a microphone (t-coils are in most hearing aids and all cochlear implant processors)
- No additional equipment is required for the user - efficient, discreet, **most preferred by users**
- Helps people with hearing aids and cochlear implants (CIs), which are a majority of people with hearing loss. **There are an estimated over 800,000 people with hearing loss in NJ.**
- Prevalent in Europe, several US states and Washington, DC have hundreds of looped locations.

Induction Loop Systems are the equivalent of RAMPS - they allow efficient COMMUNICATION ACCESS through easy-to-use hearing aid/cochlear implant connectivity, equivalent to PHYSICAL ACCESS.

- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) stipulates assistive listening systems in certain places of public accommodation, but this law is generally ignored and complaint-driven.
- Most public meeting rooms that are supposed to have assistive listening systems are NOT equipped, ignoring the ADA.
- This bill requires adherence to updated construction codes, so adherence is built into the law.
- The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) has a **Get in the Hearing Loop** project. For more info, click on this link - <https://www.hearingloss.org/programs-events/get-hearing-loop/>
- **Some NJ locations that have induction loops:** Puffin Cultural Center (Teaneck), Princeton Library, Hunterdon Medical Center, Hunterdon Libraries, Montclair State U. classroom, Wegman’s pharmacy/cashier counters, several churches and synagogues.

Induction loop systems greatly transform the experience of listening and understanding for individuals who use hearing aids or cochlear implants - ease of use and sound quality.

Communication access is a right by law - and Induction Loops are the preferred method of choice.

ENDORSEMENTS

The NJ Academy of Audiology (professional organization)
NJ Speech-Language-Hearing Assn (professional organization)
The NJ State Independent Living Council
Hearing Loss Assn of America - NJ State Assn (HLAA-NJ)

Sound Start Babies
St. Joseph’s Children’s Hospital - Audiology
Summit Speech School
DBCAN NJ - Deaf Blind Community Access Network of NJ

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