Article:

Listening instruments have improved the quality of life for many individuals with hearing loss, however not everyone is aware of the technology available to make your listening experience even better. Telecoil and Bluetooth technology is available as an added feature to many listening instruments and can increase the usefulness of your listening instrument.

The ADA requires public venues to provide assistive listening systems in places such as government and civic venues, theaters, lecture halls, airports and train stations. The ADA also requires that these systems be compatible with Hearing instruments such as hearing aids and cochlear implants. The Telecoil feature allows you to connect to the assistive listening system, improving the sound and listening experience for the individual with hearing loss.

The Telecoil and Bluetooth feature have two separate functions and it is important to know the difference. The Bluetooth feature in your listening instrument will allow you to connect to your personal devices such as your cell phone, laptop, and tablet. The Telecoil feature allows you to connect to assistive listening systems in public places. To get the most out of your hearing instrument, talk to your provider about the Bluetooth and Telecoil options.

As the consumer, it is important to know your rights:

- You have a legal right to receive consultation from your hearing health care provider about current hearing assistive technologies, including telecoils and Bluetooth, that can expand the usefulness of your personal hearing instruments.
- You have 30 days from purchase to return your hearing aid for reasonable cause, provided you meet provisions of Washington State law, and your hearing aids are in their original condition. Ask your hearing health care provider about their own return policy, which may give you additional protection

Additional information and resources can be found:

Hearing Instruments | DSHS (wa.gov)

Public Assistive Listening Systems - HLAA-WA (hearingloss-wa.org)