

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

DE R.

L.D. 1265

STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
109TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

(Filing No. S-260)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 407, L.D. 1265, Bill,
"AN ACT to Establish an Office of Deafness and Communications
Disorders."

Amend the bill in section 1 in that part designated "§3072."
by striking out all of subsections 3, 4 and 5 and inserting in
their place the following:

3. Communications disorders. "Communications disorders"
means handicaps of receptive or expressive language including,
but not limited to, deafness, hearing impairment, laryngectomy,
aphasia, stuttering, articulation and voice disorders result-
ing from either organic or inorganic causes.

4. Deaf or deafness. "Deaf or deafness" means a hearing
handicap in which the sense of hearing is nonfunctional for the
purpose of ordinary communication.

5. Hearing impairment. "Hearing impairment" means a hear-
ing handicap in which the sense of hearing is defective, but
still functional, with or without amplification.

6. Statewide registry. "Statewide registry" means a cur-
rent listing, developed in cooperation with various registries
throughout the State, of those persons in the State who are handi-
capped by deafness, a hearing impairment or other communications
disorders.

Further amend the bill in section 1 by striking out all of that part designated "§3073." and inserting in its place the following:

§3073. Powers and duties

In order to provide services and information to the deaf, hearing impaired and those with communications disorders, the Office of Deafness and Communications Disorders, as authorized by the Director ^{of the} /Bureau of Rehabilitation, shall have the power and duty to work toward the following objectives:

1. Provide advocacy. Provide cooperative agreements or coordinate with agencies or community resources to provide advocacy for the rights of the deaf and hearing impaired and those with communications disorders in the areas of employment, education, legal aid, health care, social services, finance, housing and other personal assistance while avoiding duplication of effort in these areas;

2. Statewide registry. Maintain, coordinate and update a statewide registry of the deaf, hearing impaired and those with communications disorders as is developed in cooperation with various registries throughout the State, use of this list being restricted to section 3062;

3. Information and referral. Provide information and referral services to deaf, hearing impaired and communicatively disordered persons on questions related to their disorder;

4. Develop objectives. Develop a proposal with goals and objectives for development, planning and implementation within a framework for greater cooperation and coordination among agencies and organizations now serving or having the potential to serve → deaf, hearing impaired and communicatively disordered persons;

5. Community service center. To study the need to establish, maintain and fund at least one community service center where the deaf, hearing impaired and those with communications disorders can receive pertinent information relating to the coordination of services that each requires.

6. Promote accessibility. Promote accessibility to all governmental services for Maine residents who are deaf, hearing impaired or have communications disorders; and

7. Recommendations. Make recommendations to the Governor, the Joint Standing Committee on Health / ^{and} Institutional Services and the Legislature with respect to modifications in existing services, or establishment of additional services for the deaf, hearing impaired and those with communications disorders.'

Further amend the bill in section 1 by striking out all of that part designated "§3074." and inserting in its place the following:

'§3074. Advisory board

There shall be within the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Rehabilitation, an advisory board consisting of 21 members to be appointed by the Director / ^{of the} Bureau of Rehabilitation, in conjunction with the Director / ^{of the} Office of Deafness and Communications Disorders, and representing equally professionals, consumers and the public. Members shall receive no compensation in the form of salary, but shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties for the board.

The Director / ^{of the} Bureau of Rehabilitation, in conjunction with ^{of the} the Director / Office of Deafness and Communications Disorders, shall appoint, from the advisory board, a chairman --> to serve not more than a 3-year- > term. The board shall meet at the call of the chairman, --> but not less often than 4 times during a calendar year. The chairman --> may delegate, as necessary, duties to members to carry out the functions of the board.'

Further amend the bill in section 1 in that part designated "§3075." by striking out all of the first and 2nd paragraphs and inserting in their place the following:

'The advisory board shall advise the Director/ ^{of the} Bureau of Rehabilitation and Director/ ^{of the} Office of Deafness and Communications Disorders and shall prepare an annual report which shall be a public document to the extent that it complies with section 3062.
← The report shall include, but not be limited to: '

Further amend the bill in section 1 by inserting at the end the following:

'§ 3076. Director/ ^{of the} Office of Deafness and Communications Disorders
1. Director. ^{of the} The Director/ Bureau of Rehabilitation shall appoint a Director/ ^{of the} Office of Deafness and Communications Disorders, who shall be responsible for administering the Office of Deafness and Communications Disorders and its programs and policies, including generating and seeking out financial aid, grants and moneys.
2. Qualifications of the Director Office of Deafness and Communications Disorders and staff. ↗
← Both the Director/ ^{of the} Office of Deafness and Communications Disorders and staff shall be knowledgeable of the needs of the communicatively disordered, hearing impaired, and deaf and possess the ability to communicate on a meaningful basis with those handicapped persons.'

D OF R.

Further amend the bill by striking out all of section 2 and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 2. Appropriation. The following funds shall be appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

	<u>1979-80</u>	<u>1980-81</u>
HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF		
Bureau of Rehabilitation		
Positions	(4)	(4)
Personal Services	\$35,396	\$49,554
All Other	6,900	8,700
Capital Expenditures	6,735	-
TOTAL	\$49,031	\$58,254
of the		

The Director / Bureau of Rehabilitation is authorized to seek and receive funds or personal property from the Federal Government and private sources in order to carry out the purposes of this Act.'

Statement of Fact

This amendment slightly modifies the definitions' section of the bill, removes the requirement that the office provide assistance to community agencies, changes information and referral services to ones which will serve the deaf rather than the public, eliminates the section on needs and requires that recommendations also be made to the Health ^{and} Institutional Services Committee. Community service centers are to be studied, not established.

In the sections relating to the advisory board, their number is increased to 21, representing 3 different groups; other language is eliminated. The amendment adds a new section, setting out the duties and qualifications of the Director of the office and his staff.

The appropriation is clarified to reflect a 2-year appropriation; the 1st year is 75% of the 2nd because the bill will not be effective until October.

Reported by the Majority of the Committee on Health and Institutional Services.

Reproduced and distributed pursuant to Senate Rule 11-A.

May 30, 1979

(Filing No. S-260)