

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (Filing No. H-629)
109TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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

Amend the Amendment by inserting after the title
the following:

'Amend the Bill by striking out in the title the words
"and Communications Disorders"

Further amend the Bill by striking out all of the
4thline and inserting in its place the following:

'OFFICE OF DEAFNESS'

Further amend the Bill by striking out in section 1
all of those sections designated "§3071." and "§3072." and inserting
in their place the following:

'§3071. Office of Deafness

There shall be within the Department of Human Services,
Bureau of Rehabilitation, the Office of Deafness.

§3072. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context indicates other-
wise, the following terms shall have the following meanings.

1. Advisory board. "Advisory board" means the advisory
board for the Office of Deafness.

2. Commissioner. "Commissioner" means the Commissioner
of Human Services.

3. Deaf or deafness. "Deaf or deafness" means a hearing handicap which impairs the ability of a person to avail himself of one or more community services.

4. Statewide registry. "Statewide registry" means a current list maintained by the Office of Deafness of all persons in the State who are handicapped by deafness or a hearing impairment.'

Further amend the Amendment by striking out everything on page 1, after the title, and inserting in its place the following:

'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 coordinate and provide assistance to community agencies, both public and private, in developing effective programs and resources for the deaf and hearing impaired, the Office of Deafness shall have the power and duty to:

1. Statewide registry. Maintain and update a statewide registry of the deaf and hearing impaired, use of this list being restricted to section 3062;

2. Information; questionnaire. Provide information to the deaf on questions and issues related to deafness and hearing impairment; solicit requests for information through use of a widely available questionnaire which will aid in

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carrying out other duties of the office;

3. Cooperation and coordination. Promote greater cooperation and coordination among agencies and organizations serving or having the potential to serve the deaf or hearing impaired; and

4. Recommendations. Make recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature with respect to modifications in existing services, or establishment of additional services, for the deaf and hearing impaired.'

Further amend the Amendment, on page 2, by inserting before the first paragraph the following:

Further amend the Bill in section 1 by striking out in the last line of the first/^{paragraph}of that part designated "§3074." the underlined words "are deaf, hearing impaired or those with communications disorders" and inserting in their place the underlined words 'are deaf or hearing impaired'

Further amend the Amendment by striking out in the last 2 lines of the first paragraph of that part designated "§3075." the underlined words "meaningful basis with the deaf, hearing impaired and those with communications disorders" and inserting in their place the underlined words 'meaningful basis with the deaf or hearing impaired'

Further amend the Amendment by striking out all of subsections 1 and 2 of that part designated "§3075." and inserting in their place the following:

'1. Review. A review of the status of services to the deaf or hearing impaired;

2. Recommendations. Recommendations for priorities for the development and coordination of services to the deaf or hearing impaired;'

Statement of Fact

The purpose of this amendment is to remove the words "communications disorders" from the bill.

Whereas, the 2-year ad hoc study dealt with the hearing and deafness solely, it would be unwise to include at this time communications disorders.