

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
SENATE  
109TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

(Filing No. S-261)

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

in section 1,  
Amend the bill/in that part designated "§3073." by striking  
out everything after the first paragraph and inserting in its  
place the following:

'1. Statewide registry. Maintain and update a statewide  
registry of the deaf, hearing impaired and those with communi-  
cations disorders, use of this list being restricted to section  
3062

2. Information; questionnaire. Provide information to the  
deaf on questions and issues related to deafness, hearing im-  
pairment and communications disorders; solicit requests for in-  
formation through use of a widely available questionnaire which  
will aid in carrying out other duties of the office;

3. Cooperation and coordination. Promote greater cooper-  
ation and coordination among agencies and organizations serving  
or having the potential to serve the deaf, hearing impaired or  
those with communications disorders; 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,  
hearing impaired and those with communications disorders.'

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Further amend the bill/<sup>in section 1,</sup>in that part designated "§3074." by striking out the 4th paragraph and inserting in its place the following:

'A chairman shall be elected by the membership. The board shall meet at the call of the chairman, but not less often than twice during the calendar year.'

Further amend the bill/<sup>in section 1,</sup>by striking out all of that part designated "§3075." and inserting in its place the following:  
'§3075. Board; powers and duties

The board shall, subject to the Personnel Law and with the approval of the Director of Rehabilitation, employ an executive director who shall be responsible for implementing the policies of the board. The executive director may, subject to the Personnel Law, employ a part-time clerk. The executive director and clerk shall be qualified in the areas of deafness and rehabilitation and shall have the ability to communicate on a meaningful basis with the deaf, hearing impaired and those with communications disorders.

The chairman of the board 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:

1. Review. A review of the status of services to the deaf, hearing impaired and those with communications disorders;

2. Recommendations. Recommendations for priorities for the development and coordination of services to the deaf, hearing impaired and those with communications disorders;

3. Statement of goals. A statement of goals for activities of the office during the next following fiscal year; and

4. Implementation of functions. The steps to be taken by the office to implement the functions listed in section 3073.'

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                     | (1 1/2)        | (1 1/2)        |
| Personal Services             | \$14,509       | \$19,345       |
| All Other                     | <u>1,295</u>   | <u>455</u>     |
| Total                         | \$15,804       | \$19,800       |

The commissioner 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

The amendment limits the functions of the office to providing information, establishing a registry, promoting cooperation and making recommendations. The staff, and appropriation, are thereby reduced.

The board elects its own chair and meets less frequently; it no longer must provide an evaluation.

Reported by the Minority of the Committee on Health and Institutional Services

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