

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 552

6
7 S.P. 202

In Senate, February 13, 1985

8 Referred to the Committee on Human Resources. Sent down for
9 concurrence and ordered printed.

10 JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Hichens of York.

11 Cosponsored by Senator Kany of Kennebec and Senator Matthews of
Kennebec.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE
16

17 AN ACT to Establish a Division of Deafness
18 within the Bureau of Rehabilitation.
19

20 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as
21 follows:

22 Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004, sub-§10, ¶A, sub-¶(36-A),
23 is enacted to read.

24 (36-A) Human Advisory Expenses 22 MRSA §3074
25 Services: Committee Only
26 Rehabili- to Division
27 tation of Deafness

28 Sec. 2. 22 MRSA c. 714 is enacted to read:

29 CHAPTER 714

30 DIVISION OF DEAFNESS

31 §3071. Division of Deafness

1 There is established the Division of Deafness
2 within the Department of Human Services, Bureau of
3 Rehabilitation.

4 §3072. Definitions

5 As used in this chapter, unless the context indi-
6 cates otherwise, the following terms have the follow-
7 ing meanings.

8 1. Advisory committee. "Advisory committee"
9 means the advisory committee for the Division of
10 Deafness.

11 2. Commissioner. "Commissioner" means the Com-
12 missioner of Human Services.

13 3. Deaf or deafness. "Deaf or deafness" means a
14 hearing handicap in which the sense of hearing is
15 nonfunctional for the purpose of ordinary communica-
16 tion.

17 4. Hearing impairment. "Hearing impairment"
18 means a hearing handicap in which the sense of hear-
19 ing is defective, but still functional, with or with-
20 out amplification.

21 5. Statewide registry. "Statewide registry"
22 means a current listing, developed in cooperation
23 with various registries throughout the State, of
24 those persons in the State who are handicapped by
25 deafness or hearing impairment.

26 §3073. Powers and duties

27 In order to provide services and information to
28 the deaf and hearing impaired, the Division of Deaf-
29 ness, as authorized by the Director of the Bureau of
30 Rehabilitation, shall have the power and duty to work
31 toward the following objectives:

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

1 2. Statewide registry. To maintain, coordinate
2 and update a statewide registry of the deaf and hear-
3 ing impaired as is developed in cooperation with var-
4 ious registries throughout the State, use of this
5 list being restricted to section 3062;

6 3. Information and referral. To provide informa-
7 tion and referral services to deaf and hearing im-
8 paired and their families on questions related to
9 their disorder;

10 4. Develop objectives. To develop a plan with
11 goals and objectives for development, planning and
12 implementation within a framework for greater cooper-
13 ation and coordination among agencies and organiza-
14 tions now serving or having the potential to serve
15 the deaf and hearing impaired;

16 5. Community service center. To continue to
17 study the need to establish, maintain and fund at
18 least one community service center where deaf and
19 hearing impaired and their families can receive per-
20 tinent information relating to the coordination of
21 services that each requires;

22 6. Promote accessibility. To promote accessibil-
23 ity to all governmental services for Maine residents
24 who are deaf or hearing impaired; and

25 7. Recommendations. To make recommendations to
26 the Governor, the joint standing committee of the
27 Legislature having jurisdiction over human resources
28 with respect to modifications in existing services or
29 establishment of additional services for the deaf and
30 hearing impaired and their families.

31 §3074. Advisory committee

32 There shall be within the Department of Human
33 Services, Bureau of Rehabilitation, Division of Deaf-
34 ness, an advisory committee consisting of 23 members
35 and 3 nonvoting member-at-large positions to be ap-
36 pointed by the Director of the Bureau of Rehabilita-
37 tion, in conjunction with the Director of the Divi-
38 sion of Deafness and representing equally consumers,
39 professionals and the public. Members shall be com-
40 pensated according to the provisions of Title 5,
41 chapter 379.

1 The Director of the Bureau of Rehabilitation, in
2 conjunction with the Director of the Division of
3 Deafness, shall appoint, from the advisory committee,
4 a chairman and vice-chairman to serve 2-year terms.
5 The committee shall meet at the call of the chairman
6 but not less than 4 times during a calendar year. The
7 chairman may delegate, as necessary, duties to mem-
8 bers to carry out the functions of the committee.

9 §3075. Advisory committee; powers and duties

10 The advisory committee shall advise the Director
11 of the Bureau of Rehabilitation and the Director of
12 the Division of Deafness and shall prepare an annual
13 report which shall be a public document to the extent
14 that it complies with section 3062. The report shall
15 include, but not be limited to:

16 1. Review. Review of the status of services to
17 the deaf and hearing impaired;

18 2. Recommendations. Recommendations for priori-
19 ties for the development and coordination of services
20 to the deaf and hearing impaired;

21 3. Evaluation. An evaluation of the progress
22 made as the result of any recommendations made in the
23 preceding report of the chairman;

24 4. Statement of goals. A statement of goals for
25 activities of the division during the next following
26 fiscal year; and

27 5. Implementation of functions. The steps to be
28 taken by the division to implement the functions
29 listed in section 3073.

30 §3076. Director of the Division of Deafness

31 1. Director. The Director of the Bureau of Reha-
32 ilitation shall appoint a Director of the Division
33 of Deafness, who shall be responsible for administer-
34 ing the Division of Deafness and its programs and po-
35 licies, including generating and seeking out finan-
36 cial aid, grants and money.

