

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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M
R. d. s.

L.D. 2266

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DATE: *March 20, 1998*

(Filing No. S- *572*)

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LABOR

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
118TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 853, L.D. 2266, Bill, "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Commission to Study the Funding and Distribution of Teletypewriters and Other Telecommunications Equipment for People with Disabilities"

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Amend the bill in Part B in section 1 in section 5 by striking out all of the last sentence (page 4, lines 23 to 28 in L.D.) and inserting in its place the following: 'The commission shall continue its study and may meet 2 times after the adjournment of the Second Regular Session of the 118th Legislature. The commission shall submit a final report that may include any necessary implementing legislation to the First Regular Session of the 119th Legislature by January 15, 1999; and be it further'

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Further amend the bill in Part B by inserting after section 1 the following:

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

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1997-98

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LEGISLATURE

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Commission to Study the Funding and Distribution of Teletypewriters and Other Telecommunications Equipment for People with Disabilities

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

M
R. D. S.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 853, L.D. 2266

2	Personal Services	\$220
	All Other	1,200
4	Provides funds for the per diem and expenses	
6	of legislative members, interpreter services	
	and miscellaneous costs, including printing,	
8	of the Commission to Study the Funding and	
	Distribution of Teletypewriters and Other	
10	Telecommunications Equipment for People with	
	Disabilities.	

12	LEGISLATURE	
	TOTAL	<u>\$1,420'</u>

14 Further amend the bill in Part C in section 1 in the 5th
 16 line (page 4, line 40 in L.D.) by inserting after the following:
 "companies," the following: 'the Commission to Study the Funding
 18 and Distribution of Teletypewriters and Other Telecommunications
 Equipment for People with Disabilities and other advisory
 20 councils representing the interests of persons with disabilities,'

22 Further amend the bill in Part C in section 1 in the 2nd
 sentence in the 2nd line (page 4, line 45 in L.D.) by striking
 24 out the following: "January 1, 1999" and inserting in its place
 the following: 'January 15, 1999'

26 Further amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any
 28 nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read
 consecutively.

30 Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the
 32 summary the following:

FISCAL NOTE

34			
36		1997-98	1998-99
38	APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS		
40	General Fund	\$1,420	\$85,000

42 This bill includes a General Fund appropriation of \$85,000
 44 in fiscal year 1998-99 to the Department of Labor for the
 purchase and distribution of specialized customer
 46 telecommunications equipment.

48 In addition, the Legislature will require a General Fund
 appropriation of \$1,430 in fiscal year 1997-98 for the per diem
 50 and expenses of legislative members, interpreter services and

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

2 miscellaneous costs, including printing, of the Commission to
Study the Funding and Distribution of Teletypewriters and Other
4 Telecommunications Equipment for People with Disabilities. The
additional costs associated with providing staffing assistance to
6 the commission can be absorbed by the Legislature utilizing
existing budgeted resources.

8 The Division of Deafness within the Department of Labor will
incur some minor additional costs to conduct a study and to
10 submit a report to the Legislature. These costs can be absorbed
within the division's existing budgeted resources.

12 The additional costs associated with conducting an annual
14 survey of public schools to assess the need for specialized
customer telecommunications equipment in school systems and
16 reporting those findings to the Legislature can be absorbed by
the Department of Education utilizing existing budgeted
18 resources.'

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22 **SUMMARY**

This amendment clarifies that the Commission to Study the
24 Funding and Distribution of Teletypewriters and Other
Telecommunications Equipment for People with Disabilities may
26 hold 2 additional meetings to further its study. The amendment
authorizes the commission to report out legislation and requires
28 the commission to report to the First Regular Session of the
119th Legislature by January 15, 1999.

30 The amendment also requires the Division of Deafness to
32 consult with the Commission to Study the Funding and Distribution
of Teletypewriters and Other Telecommunications Equipment for
34 People with Disabilities and with other advisory councils
representing the interests of persons with disabilities when
36 developing its comprehensive plan for providing direct access to
specialized customer telecommunications equipment. The Division
38 of Deafness must also report to the First Regular Session of the
119th Legislature by January 15, 1999.

40 The amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.