

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2006

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Legislative Document

No. 2105

H.P. 1495

House of Representatives, April 10, 2006

**An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Joint Standing  
Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs Regarding the  
Telecommunications Relay Services Advisory Council Pursuant to  
Reviews Conducted under the State Government Evaluation Act**

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Reported by Representative NORTON of Bangor for the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 955, subsection 4.

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

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

2  
3       **Sec. 1. 3 MRSA §959, sub-§1, ¶E,** as amended by PL 2003, c.  
4 600, §1, is further amended to read:

6       E. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having  
7 jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs shall use  
8 the following list as a guideline for scheduling reviews:

10       ~~(1) -- Telecommunications-Relay-Services-Advisory-Council~~  
11       ~~in-2005;~~

12       (2) Department of Education in 2005;

14       (2-A) State Board of Education in 2005;

16       (3) Maine Arts Commission in 2007;

18       (5) Maine Historic Preservation Commission in 2007;

20       (5-A) Notwithstanding section 952, Maine Historical  
22 Society in 2007;

24       (6) Maine Library Commission in 2007;

26       (6-A) Maine State Cultural Affairs Council in 2007;

28       (6-B) Maine State Library in 2007;

30       (6-C) Maine State Museum in 2007;

32       (7) Maine State Museum Commission in 2007;

34       (8) Office of State Historian in 2007;

36       (9) Board of Trustees of the Maine Maritime Academy in  
38 2009;

40       (10) Board of Trustees of the University of Maine  
42 System in 2009;

44       (12) Maine Community College System in 2009;

46       (13) Maine Health and Higher Educational Facilities  
48 Authority in 2011; and

50       (14) Maine Educational Loan Authority in 2011.

50       **Sec. 2. 3 MRSA §959, sub-§1, ¶P,** as amended by PL 2003, c. 600,  
§1, is further amended to read:

2 P. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having  
jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters shall use the  
4 following list as a guideline for scheduling reviews:

- 6 (1) Public Advocate in 2005;
- 8 (2) Board of Directors, Maine Municipal and Rural  
Electrification Cooperative Agency in 2007;
- 10 (3) Public Utilities Commission in 2007; and
- 12 (4) The Emergency Services Communication Bureau within  
14 the Department of Public Safety in 2009; and
- 16 (5) Telecommunications Relay Services Advisory Council  
18 in 2013.

20 **Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §12004-G, sub-§30-C is enacted to read:**

22	<u>30-C.</u>	<u>Telecommuni-</u>	<u>Not</u>	<u>35-A MRSA</u>
	<u>Public</u>	<u>cations</u>	<u>Authorized</u>	<u>§8704</u>
24	<u>Utilities</u>	<u>Relay</u>		
		<u>Services</u>		
		<u>Advisory</u>		
26		<u>Council</u>		

28 **Sec. 4. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§74-A-1, as enacted by PL 1989, c.**  
851, §2, is repealed.

30 **Sec. 5. 35-A MRSA §8704, first ¶, as enacted by PL 1989, c.**  
32 851, §7, is amended to read:

34 The Telecommunications Relay Services Advisory Council, as  
established by Title 5, section ~~12004-I~~ 12004-G, subsection  
36 ~~74-A-1~~ 30-C, shall evaluate telecommunications relay services in  
this State and provide advice to providers of telecommunications  
38 relay services.

40 **Sec. 6. 35-A MRSA §8704, sub-§5, as enacted by PL 1989, c.**  
851, §7, is amended to read:

42 **5. Powers and duties.** The advisory council shall evaluate  
44 telecommunications relay services in this State and shall advise  
providers of telecommunications relay services regarding  
46 telecommunications relay service matters, including, but not  
limited to, the development of training standards and an  
48 evaluation of the service being provided, including the quality  
and availability of that service. The advisory council may enter

2 into contracts with telecommunications relay service providers  
3 for the purpose of providing telecommunications relay services.

4  
6 **SUMMARY**

8 This bill implements the recommendations of the Joint  
9 Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to  
10 its review of the Telecommunications Relay Services Advisory  
11 Council under the State Government Evaluation Act.

12 This bill gives the Telecommunications Relay Services  
13 Advisory Council the authority to enter into contracts with  
14 telecommunications relay service providers for the purpose of  
15 providing telecommunications services to persons who are deaf,  
16 hearing impaired or speech impaired. Because of this new  
17 contracting authority, the advisory council is reallocated from  
18 its current status in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5,  
19 section 12004-I as an advisory board with minimal authority to  
20 Title 5, section 12004-G, which lists general government boards  
21 with contracting authority. The bill also changes the joint  
22 standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over  
23 the review of the advisory council under the State Government  
24 Evaluation Act from the joint standing committee of the  
25 Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural  
26 affairs to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having  
27 jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters and requires that  
28 the advisory council be reviewed by that committee in 2013.

**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**  
**(See attached)**



Approved: 04/07/06 *MRC*

# 122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 2105

LR 3247(01)

## An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs Regarding the Telecommunications Relay Services Advisory Council

**Fiscal Note for Committee Bill**  
**Committee: Education and Cultural Affairs**  
**Fiscal Note Required: Yes**

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### Fiscal Note

No net fiscal impact - State Universal Service Fund

#### Fiscal Detail and Notes

Activities of the Telecommunications Relay Services Advisory Council are currently funded through the State Universal Service Fund pursuant to 35-A MRSA section 7104, subsection 7. Moving the advisory council under Title 5, section 12004-G and requiring a review by the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy in 2013 will have no net fiscal impact because funding will still be provided from the same fund.