

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2016

Legislative Document

No. 1585

H.P. 1076

House of Representatives, February 9, 2016

**An Act To Improve Services for Persons Who Are Deaf or Hard of
Hearing by Updating the Laws Governing Qualifications for Certain
Members of the Telecommunications Relay Services Advisory
Council**

(AFTER DEADLINE)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

Reference to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative BEAVERS of South Berwick.
Cosponsored by Senator MASON of Androscoggin and
Representative: ESPLING of New Gloucester, Senator: BREEN of Cumberland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §8704, sub-§1, ¶E**, as amended by PL 2013, c. 40, §1, is
3 further amended to read:

4 E. Eight members appointed by the Governor as follows:

5 (1) One member from the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of
6 Hearing and the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf;

7 (2) One member from a statewide association for the deaf;

8 (3) One member from a ~~center on deafness~~ disability rights organization in this
9 State;

10 (4) One member from the largest incumbent local exchange carrier providing
11 telecommunications relay service in this State;

12 (5) One member of a telephone association in this State, except that the
13 representative under this subparagraph may not be a representative of the carrier
14 under subparagraph (4);

15 (6) Two members from the general public who use telecommunications devices
16 for the deaf ~~as a primary means of~~ that operate in connection with
17 telecommunications relay services as their primary means of
18 telecommunications; and

19 (7) One member representing ~~an Internet telecommunications relay service~~
20 ~~provider~~ a company that provides ~~service to customers in this State~~
21 telecommunications relay services through the Internet, wireless
22 telecommunications or cable telecommunications.

23 **SUMMARY**

24 This bill changes the qualifications of 4 members of the Telecommunications Relay
25 Services Advisory Council to reflect changes in the State regarding advocates for persons
26 with disabilities, telecommunications relay services and the Internet and wireless and
27 cable telecommunications.