
SENATE BILL NO. 61—COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

(ON BEHALF OF THE AGING AND
DISABILITY SERVICES DIVISION)

PREFILED DECEMBER 20, 2012

Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

SUMMARY—Revises certain provisions relating to persons with communications disabilities. (BDR 38-310)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to public welfare; revising the number and qualifications of members of the Subcommittee on Communication Services for Persons Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing and Persons With Speech Disabilities of the Nevada Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

1 Existing law creates the Subcommittee on Communication Services for Persons
2 Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing and Persons With Speech Disabilities within the
3 Nevada Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities. The Subcommittee
4 is authorized to: (1) make recommendations to the Commission concerning
5 programs for persons with communications disabilities; (2) recommend to the
6 Commission proposed legislation concerning persons with communications
7 disabilities; and (3) collect information concerning persons with communications
8 disabilities. The Subcommittee consists of 11 members (8 voting, 3 nonvoting) who
9 represent various interests related to communications disabilities. (NRS 427A.750)
10 **Section 1** of this bill removes five positions from the Subcommittee (including
11 all three nonvoting members), changes the criteria for three positions, and adds one
12 position reserved for a user of telecommunications relay services or the services of
13 persons engaged in the practice of interpreting or the practice of realtime
14 captioning.
15 **Section 2** of this bill provides that the terms of the Subcommittee members
16 whose positions are being removed end on the effective date of this bill and that the



17 new members must be appointed in a manner consistent with the staggered terms
18 currently served by the Subcommittee members.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 **Section 1.** NRS 427A.750 is hereby amended to read as
2 follows:

3 427A.750 1. The Subcommittee on Communication Services
4 for Persons Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing and Persons With
5 Speech Disabilities of the Nevada Commission on Services for
6 Persons with Disabilities is hereby created. The Subcommittee
7 consists of ~~[[[~~ *seven* members appointed by the Administrator. The
8 Administrator shall consider recommendations made by the Nevada
9 Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities and appoint
10 to the Subcommittee:

11 (a) One member who is employed by the Division and who
12 participates in the administration of the program of this State that
13 provides services to persons with communications disabilities which
14 affect their ability to communicate;

15 (b) One person who is ~~[a member of the Nevada Association of~~
16 ~~the Deaf;]~~ *deaf, hard of hearing or speech-impaired, or a parent of*
17 *a child who is deaf, hard of hearing or speech-impaired;*

18 (c) One member who ~~[is professionally qualified in the field of~~
19 ~~deafness;]~~ *has experience with or an interest in and knowledge of*
20 *the problems of and services for the deaf, hard of hearing or*
21 *speech-impaired;*

22 (d) The Executive Director of the Nevada Telecommunications
23 Association or, in the event of its dissolution, a member who
24 represents the telecommunications industry;

25 (e) ~~[One member]~~ *Two members* who ~~[is a consumer]~~ *are users*
26 *of telecommunications relay services [;]* *or the services of persons*
27 *engaged in the practice of interpreting or the practice of realtime*
28 *captioning; and*

29 (f) ~~[One member who is a consumer of Communication Access~~
30 ~~Realtime Translation or realtime captioning;~~

31 ~~—(g) One member who is a consumer of services provided by a~~
32 ~~person engaged in the practice of interpreting;~~

33 ~~—(h) One nonvoting member who is registered with the Division~~
34 ~~pursuant to NRS 656A.100 to engage in the practice of interpreting~~
35 ~~in a community setting and holds a certificate issued by the Registry~~
36 ~~of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc., or its successor organization;~~

37 ~~—(i) One nonvoting member who is registered with the Division~~
38 ~~pursuant to NRS 656A.100 to engage in the practice of interpreting~~
39 ~~in an educational setting and has completed the Educational~~



~~1 Interpreter Performance Assessment administered by the Boys
2 Town National Research Hospital, or its successor organization, and
3 received a rating of his or her level of proficiency in providing
4 interpreting services at level 4 or 5;~~

~~5 —(j) One nonvoting member who is registered with the Division
6 pursuant to NRS 656A.400 to engage in the practice of realtime
7 captioning; and~~

~~8 —(k) One member who represents educators in this State and has
9 knowledge concerning the provision of communication services to
10 persons with communications disabilities in elementary, secondary
11 and postsecondary schools and the laws concerning the provision of
12 those services.~~

13 2. After the initial term, the term of each member is 3 years. A
14 member may be reappointed.

15 3. If a vacancy occurs during the term of a member, the
16 Administrator shall appoint a person similarly qualified to replace
17 that member for the remainder of the unexpired term.

18 4. The Subcommittee shall:

19 (a) At its first meeting and annually thereafter, elect a Chair
20 from among its ~~{voting}~~ members; and

21 (b) Meet at the call of the Administrator, the Chair of the
22 Nevada Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities, the
23 Chair of the Subcommittee or a majority of its members as is
24 necessary to carry out its responsibilities.

25 5. A majority of the ~~{voting}~~ members of the Subcommittee
26 constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business, and a majority
27 of the ~~{voting}~~ members of a quorum present at any meeting is
28 sufficient for any official action taken by the Subcommittee.

29 6. Members of the Subcommittee serve without compensation,
30 except that each member is entitled, while engaged in the business
31 of the Subcommittee, to the per diem allowance and travel expenses
32 provided for state officers and employees generally if funding is
33 available for this purpose.

34 7. A member of the Subcommittee who is an officer or
35 employee of this State or a political subdivision of this State must be
36 relieved from his or her duties without loss of regular compensation
37 so that the person may prepare for and attend meetings of the
38 Subcommittee and perform any work necessary to carry out the
39 duties of the Subcommittee in the most timely manner practicable.
40 A state agency or political subdivision of this State shall not require
41 an officer or employee who is a member of the Subcommittee to
42 make up the time he or she is absent from work to carry out his or
43 her duties as a member of the Subcommittee or use annual vacation
44 or compensatory time for the absence.

45 8. The Subcommittee may:



1 (a) Make recommendations to the Nevada Commission on
2 Services for Persons with Disabilities concerning the establishment
3 and operation of programs for persons with communications
4 disabilities which affect their ability to communicate;

5 (b) Recommend to the Nevada Commission on Services for
6 Persons with Disabilities any proposed legislation concerning
7 persons with communications disabilities which affect their ability
8 to communicate; and

9 (c) Collect information concerning persons with
10 communications disabilities which affect their ability to
11 communicate.

12 9. The Subcommittee shall make recommendations to the
13 Nevada Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities
14 concerning the practice of interpreting and the practice of realtime
15 captioning, including, without limitation, the adoption of regulations
16 to carry out the provisions of chapter 656A of NRS.

17 10. As used in this section:

18 (a) "Nevada Commission on Services for Persons with
19 Disabilities" means the Nevada Commission on Services for
20 Persons with Disabilities created by NRS 427A.1211.

21 (b) "Practice of interpreting" has the meaning ascribed to it in
22 NRS 656A.060.

23 (c) "Practice of realtime captioning" has the meaning ascribed to
24 it in NRS 656A.062.

25 (d) "Telecommunications relay services" has the meaning
26 ascribed to it in 47 C.F.R. § 64.601.

27 **Sec. 2.** 1. The terms of the current members of the
28 Subcommittee appointed pursuant to paragraphs (b), (c) and (e) to
29 (j), inclusive, of subsection 1 of NRS 427A.750, as that section
30 existed before the effective date of this act, expire on the effective
31 date of this act.

32 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date of this act, the
33 Administrator shall appoint to the Subcommittee the new members
34 required by paragraphs (b), (c) and (e) of subsection 1 of NRS
35 427A.750, as amended by section 1 of this act. A member may be
36 reappointed pursuant to this subsection if the member meets the
37 applicable criteria of subsection 1 of NRS 427A.750, as amended by
38 section 1 of this act.

39 3. In making the appointments described in subsection 2, the
40 Administrator must, insofar as is possible, appoint the new members
41 to initial terms which are of such durations that the terms are
42 consistent with the manner in which the terms of the other members
43 of the Subcommittee are staggered.

44 4. As used in this section:



1 (a) "Administrator" has the meaning ascribed to it in
2 NRS 427A.021.

3 (b) "Subcommittee" means the Subcommittee on
4 Communication Services for Persons Who Are Deaf or Hard of
5 Hearing and Persons With Speech Disabilities of the Nevada
6 Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities.

7 **Sec. 3.** This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.

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