

1 AN ACT concerning the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
2 Commission.

3 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,  
4 represented in the General Assembly:

5 Section 5. The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission Act  
6 is amended by changing Sections 15, 20, 25, and 30 as  
7 follows:

8 (20 ILCS 3932/15)

9 Sec. 15. Commission membership.

10 (a) The Commission shall be composed of 11 voting  
11 members appointed by the Governor from residents of the State  
12 whose position, knowledge, or experience enables them to  
13 reasonably represent the concerns, needs, and recommendations  
14 of deaf or hard of hearing persons. At a minimum, 6 voting  
15 members of the Commission shall be persons who are deaf or  
16 hard of hearing. The Chairperson of the Commission shall be  
17 elected from the Commission's membership by a simple majority  
18 vote of the total membership of the Commission. The  
19 Vice-Chairperson of the Commission shall be elected from the  
20 Commission's membership by a simple majority vote of the  
21 total membership of the Commission.

22 (b) The Governor shall consider nominations made by  
23 advocacy groups for the deaf and hard of hearing and  
24 community-based organizations.

25 (c) Of the initial members appointed by the Governor, 3  
26 shall be appointed to terms of one year, 4 shall be appointed  
27 to terms of 2 years, and 4 shall be appointed to terms of 3  
28 years. Thereafter, all members shall be appointed for terms  
29 of 3 years. No member shall serve more than 2 consecutive  
30 terms. A member shall serve until his or her successor is  
31 appointed and qualified.

1 (d) Initial members' terms of office shall be chosen by  
2 lot at the initial meeting of the Commission.

3 (e) Vacancies in Commission membership shall be filled  
4 in the same manner as initial appointments. Appointments to  
5 fill vacancies occurring before the expiration of a term  
6 shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term.

7 (f) Members shall not receive compensation for their  
8 services but shall be reimbursed for their actual expenses  
9 incurred in the performance of their duties plus up to \$50  
10 per day for any actual loss of wages incurred in the  
11 performance of their duties.

12 (g) Total membership consists of the number of voting  
13 members, as defined in this Section, excluding any vacant  
14 positions. A quorum shall consist of a simple majority of  
15 total membership and shall be sufficient to conduct the  
16 transaction of business of the Commission unless stipulated  
17 otherwise in the by-laws of the Commission.

18 (h) The Commission shall meet at least quarterly.

19 (Source: P.A. 89-680, eff. 1-1-97.)

20 (20 ILCS 3932/20)

21 Sec. 20. Director. The Director of the Commission shall  
22 be hired, supervised, evaluated, and terminated by the  
23 Commission. The Director shall carry out the policies,  
24 programs, and activities of the Commission. The Director  
25 shall employ, in accordance with the provisions of the  
26 Illinois Personnel Code, manage, and organize the staff of  
27 the Commission as he or she deems appropriate.

28 (Source: P.A. 89-680, eff. 1-1-97.)

29 (20 ILCS 3932/25)

30 Sec. 25. Powers and duties of the Commission. The  
31 Commission shall be a coordinating and advocating body that  
32 acts on behalf of the interests of persons in Illinois who

1 are deaf or hard of hearing, including children, adults,  
2 senior citizens, and those with any additional disability.

3 The Commission shall submit an annual report of its  
4 activities to the Governor and the General Assembly on  
5 January 1st of each year. The Commission shall:

6 (1) Make available and provide an educational and  
7 informational program through printed materials, workshop  
8 and training sessions, presentations, demonstrations, and  
9 public awareness events about hearing loss for citizens  
10 in Illinois and for public and private entities. The  
11 program shall include, but not be limited to, information  
12 concerning information and referral services, lending  
13 libraries, service and resource availability, the  
14 interpreter registry, accessibility and accommodation  
15 issues, assistive technology, empowerment issues,  
16 obligations of service providers and employers,  
17 educational options, and current federal and State  
18 statutes, regulations, and policies regarding hearing  
19 loss Develop-a-program-to-inform-persons-who-are-deaf--or  
20 hard--of--hearing--and--the-public-of-the-State-and-local  
21 services-available-for-the-deaf-and-hard-of--hearing--and  
22 make--available--other--information-of-value-to-families,  
23 professionals,-and--citizens--working--or--involved--with  
24 persons-who-are-deaf-or-hard-of-hearing.

25 (2) Cooperate with public and private agencies and  
26 local, State, and federal governments to coordinate  
27 programs for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.

28 (3) Provide technical assistance, consultation, and  
29 training support to start and enhance existing programs  
30 and services for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.

31 (4) Evaluate and monitor State programs delivering  
32 services to deaf and hard of hearing persons to determine  
33 that promised and mandated services are delivered and to  
34 assure their effectiveness; identify and promote new

1 services or programs whenever necessary; and make  
 2 recommendations to public officials about changes  
 3 necessary to improve the quality and delivery of  
 4 services, programs, and activities and about future  
 5 financial support to continue existing programs and  
 6 establish new programs.

7 (5) Appoint task forces and committees when  
 8 appropriate for in-depth investigations and studies of  
 9 particular problems relating to deafness and receive  
 10 reports of findings and recommendations from the task  
 11 forces and committees Monitor--State--funded--programs  
 12 delivering--services--to--persons-who-are-deaf-or-hard-of  
 13 hearing--to--determine--the--extent--that--promised---and  
 14 mandated-services-are-delivered.

15 (6) Review, evaluate, and participate in the  
 16 development of proposed and amended statutes, rules,  
 17 regulations, and policies relating to services, programs,  
 18 and activities for deaf and hard of hearing persons and  
 19 make recommendations on existing statutes, rules,  
 20 regulations, and policies to the Governor, General  
 21 Assembly, and State agencies Recommend---legislative  
 22 changes--to--the-Governor-and-General-Assembly-and-follow  
 23 and-evaluate-laws-affecting-persons-who-are-deaf-or--hard  
 24 of-hearing.

25 (7) Provide awards, grants, contracts, and  
 26 sponsorships to any person or public or private agency to  
 27 provide services or programs that are identified as a  
 28 service or program gap or that promote an innovative and  
 29 creative approach to strengthen, expand, or improve  
 30 services and programs for deaf and hard of hearing  
 31 persons Promote---cooperation--among--State--and--local  
 32 agencies-providing-educational-programs-for-deaf-and-hard  
 33 of-hearing-individuals.

34 (8) Establish rules and regulations policy related

1 to evaluation, certification, licensure, and training  
 2 standards of sign-language interpreters for deaf and hard  
 3 of hearing persons;--monitor---the---courts'---use---of  
 4 interpreters--provided--from--an--approved--list;--and--serve--as  
 5 a---resource---by---providing---a---listing--of--qualified  
 6 interpreters--upon--request--to--legislative--bodies,--public  
 7 and--private--agencies,--and--persons--who--are--deaf--and--hard  
 8 of-hearing.

9 (Source: P.A. 89-680, eff. 1-1-97.)

10 (20 ILCS 3932/30)

11 Sec. 30. Rules and regulations. The Commission shall  
 12 promulgate rules and regulations to implement this Act in  
 13 accordance with the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act  
 14 Powers--and--duties--of--the--Director.---The-Director-of-the  
 15 Commission-shall-carry-out-the-policies-and-programs--of--the  
 16 Commission.---The--Director-shall-organize-and-administer-the  
 17 staff-of-the-Commission-to-meet-the-requirements-of-this-Act.

18 (Source: P.A. 89-680, eff. 1-1-97.)