

A-Engrossed
House Bill 2881

Ordered by the House May 2
Including House Amendments dated May 2

Sponsored by Representative LIM; Representatives GIROD, OLSON, RILEY, Senators MONNES ANDERSON, MORRISETTE, STARR

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

Creates Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Specifies membership and duties of commission. Provides that Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office provide administrative services for commission.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing; creating new provisions; and amending
3 ORS 185.005 and 185.110.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1. (1) It is declared to be the policy and intent of the Legislative Assembly that**
6 **the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is created to work for the implementation**
7 **and establishment of economic, social, legal and political equality for the deaf and hard of**
8 **hearing in Oregon in the manner provided by sections 1 to 3 of this 2007 Act.**

9 **(2) The commission shall make recommendations to the Governor and shall report to**
10 **each regular session of the Legislative Assembly.**

11 **SECTION 2. (1) The Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing consists of seven**
12 **members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate pursuant to section 4,**
13 **Article III, Oregon Constitution. At least four of the members must be deaf or hard of**
14 **hearing. To the extent possible, members appointed shall provide for representation from all**
15 **areas of the state. All of the members of the commission must be residents of this state.**

16 **(2) Commission members serve four year terms and may be reappointed.**

17 **(3) Commission members shall elect a chairperson and vice chairperson.**

18 **(4) A majority of the members of the commission constitute a quorum for the trans-**
19 **action of business.**

20 **(5) Commission members shall be paid compensation and expenses as provided in ORS**
21 **292.495 from funds appropriated to the Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office.**

22 **SECTION 3. The Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing shall:**

23 **(1) Monitor existing programs and legislation designed to meet the needs of the deaf and**
24 **hard of hearing population.**

25 **(2) Identify and research problem areas and issues affecting the deaf and hard of hearing**
26 **and recommend actions to the Governor and the Legislative Assembly, including recom-**
27 **mendations on legislative programs.**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **(3) Maintain a liaison between the community of the deaf and hard of hearing and gov-**
2 **ernment entities.**

3 **(4) Encourage representation of the deaf and hard of hearing on state boards and com-**
4 **missions.**

5 **SECTION 4.** ORS 185.005 is amended to read:

6 185.005. The Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office is established to provide administrative sup-
7 port to:

8 (1) The Commission on Hispanic Affairs;

9 (2) The Commission on Black Affairs;

10 (3) The Commission for Women; *[and]*

11 (4) The Commission on Asian Affairs; **and**

12 **(5) The Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.**

13 **SECTION 5.** ORS 185.110 is amended to read:

14 185.110. As used in ORS 185.110 to 185.230, unless the context requires otherwise:

15 (1) “Advocate self-help group” means any organized group of individuals with disabilities who
16 have joined together for purposes of informing the public of their needs and obtaining resources,
17 services and benefits for their membership.

18 (2) “Consumer” means an individual with a disability, or a parent or legal guardian, other than
19 the State of Oregon, of an individual with a disability, who utilizes the services made available by
20 public and private organizations which serve individuals with disabilities.

21 (3) “Disabled individual” means anyone who[:]

22 *[(a)]* has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more of the individ-
23 ual’s major life activities[;],

24 *[(b)]* has a record of such impairment[; *or*] **or**

25 *[(c)]* is regarded as having such an impairment.

26 *[(4)]* “Sign language interpreter” means a person who is readily able to communicate with a hard-
27 of-hearing person, translate proceedings or conversations and accurately repeat and translate the
28 statements of a hard-of-hearing person.]

29 **SECTION 6.** Section 7 of this 2007 Act is added to and made a part of sections 1 to 3 of
30 this 2007 Act.

31 **SECTION 7.** For the purposes of ORS 185.225 and 185.230, “sign language interpreter”
32 means a person who is readily able to communicate with a person who is hard of hearing,
33 translate proceedings or conversations and accurately repeat and translate the statements
34 of a person who is hard of hearing.

35 **SECTION 8.** ORS 185.225 and 185.230 are added to and made a part of sections 1 to 3 of
36 this 2007 Act.

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